

Strawberry Point City Council
Special Meeting October 26, 2010

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a special meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Fox presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Jan Parkin, Rich Newman, Troy Stover, Jackie Opperman and Jacci Meyers. Also, present was the City Attorney, Police Chief Pope, and Officer Johns.

The main purpose of this special meeting was to discuss a personnel matter with the Police Department. The Mayor asked Officer Johns if he requested to enter into closed session since the discussion would involve his performance. Officer Johns did not request to enter into closed session. Office Johns admitted he messed up but he has been honest about everything that happened. He said that 1 year probation and no raise for 1 year would be a reasonable punishment. He feels that he deserves a second chance and that he can still be a good officer for the City of Strawberry Point. He said that he had compliments from parents and citizens that he does a good job protecting our community.

Council members commented that Officer Johns took an oath to serve and protect and that he is held to a higher standard since he is a police officer. The incident in question occurred while Office Johns was on duty and that is the real problem. Officer Johns chose to not protect the citizens of Strawberry Point while on duty and made poor choices. The council has lost trust in him. By his actions, he also cheated the tax payers of Strawberry Point while on duty. Council members asked the Police Chief if he could continue to work with Officer Johns and could trust him again. Chief Pope commented that due to the nature of the incident that it would be hard to trust him again since he has also harmed the reputation of the entire department and the City. At this time, he felt he cannot work with Officer Johns. Chief Pope recommended to the City Council that Officer Johns be terminated. After a lengthy discussion, Meyers moved to follow the recommendation of Chief Pope and terminate the employment of Officer Johns. Opperman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Newman, Opperman, Parkin, Stover and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The council then discussed staffing options for the Police Department. Chief Pope offered some suggestions including advertising for another full-time officer, utilizing part-time officers and implementing a reserve program. After some discussion, Parkin moved that we advertise for a police officer and accept applications until December 1st and to advertize and post the ad at various colleges and employment agencies. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover, Meyers and Newman. Nays: None. Motion passes. Chief Pope is also to have information available regarding the reserve program and have names of people interested at the next council meeting.

Chief Pope requested to be moved from salary to hourly since he will be putting in additional hours with no officer. Newman moved to allow Chief Pope to be paid hourly until the council deems it appropriate to return him to salary. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Stover, Meyers, Newman and Opperman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Opperman moved to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Meyers seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Dale Fox, Mayor