

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting November 3, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Evans presided. Council members answering roll call were Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe.

Mayor Evans requested tabling the “Downtown Housing Grant Partnership – Mark Meyer” presentation for consideration at the November 17, 2021, City Council Meeting. Hansel moved to approve the agenda as amended. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

PRESENTATIONS/GUESTS

Rachelle Howe and Carrie Courtney with Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC) presented information pertaining to the organization’s Regional Housing Trust Fund. The program assists residents in their service area with home improvements and down payment assistance by forgivable or low interest loans. It was suggested that the City Council budget for a contribution to this program in FY2023 to make additional funds available to Strawberry Point residents. Howe also advised UERPC offers several other assistance programs and resources and encouraged any one in need to contact their office.

Dave Zitelman, renter of the City’s farmland, requested tiling in approximately four acres of ground near the lagoons. Staff will research possible solutions, including extended lease terms, and cost; item will be added to next agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from October 20, 2021, City Council Meeting
Claims

Courtnage moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Staff explained that with a functional diving board at the pool, other maintenance projects should take priority over the purchase of another diving board. Required maintenance includes paint, valve replacement, and caulking, with staff also planning to budget for a cover to reduce energy costs associated with heating the pool. Courtnage moved to overturn the Council’s decision to purchase a new diving board. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

It was explained that CDBG grant requirements increased the estimated cost of the Civic Center and Library projects by approximately \$50,000. To include those costs in the grant request, the City will need to hold another public hearing. Gould moved to approve Resolution #21-46 Setting Date of Public Hearing for CDBG-CV Grant. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes. The public hearing will be held on November 17, 2021.

INFORMATION

The September 2021 Library Board minutes were received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Courtnage moved to approve the request to waive the Civic Center Rental Fee for the Berry Merry Vendor Show with proceeds from table rent being donated back to the City. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

After reviewing the auditor and legal opinion advising of such, Gearhart moved to pay the balance of the Local Option Sales Tax Fund reserved for Economic Development to the Strawberry Point Chamber and Economic Development Club. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Gearhart abstained due to his position on the Chamber and Economic Development Club Board. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to approve the 2021 Holiday Lighting Rebate Program. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Administrator/Clerk Ashley Jasper invited elected officials to participate in the Municipal Leadership Academy. Jasper also sought input for a toy drive at Dollar General's request. Gould commended the Police Department and all involved in Saturday's high-speed chase for their professional management of the situation and prioritization of community safety. Mayor Evans requested another two-week cycle of leaf collection be scheduled. Courtnage requested Police attention to a vehicle parked behind the Press Journal. Hansel requested more frequent social media posts. Gearhart requested use of a City tree for the Chamber and Economic Development Club's tree lighting ceremony; the Inger Park tree was suggested for use.

With there being no other business, Courtnage moved to adjourn at 6:36PM. Gould seconded the motion. All ayes.

Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

Hannah Evans, Mayor