

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting January 20, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Evans presided. Council members answering roll call were Gearhart, Hansel, Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Gould.

Courtnage made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart, Hansel, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from January 4, 2021, January 5, 2021, and January 6, 2021

November Treasurer's Report showing receipts and disbursements by fund as follows:

Fund	Expenses	Revenues
General	\$ 52,491.87	\$ 86,504.66
Munter Trust	\$ -	\$ -
Library Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Department	\$ -	\$ -
Swimming Pool	\$ -	\$ -
Tree Board	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance	\$ -	\$ -
Civic Center	\$ -	\$ -
Police Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Street Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Industrial Park Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Pool Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Parks Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Road Use Tax	\$ 45,882.41	\$ 15,927.29
I-Jobs	\$ -	\$ -
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,319.77	\$ 12,534.88
Emergency Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,014.97
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ -	\$ 32,666.52
Tax Increment Financing	\$ -	\$ 4,228.96
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 7,027.50	\$ 11,052.77
CDBG Rehab Housing Project	\$ -	\$ -
Water	\$ 21,584.09	\$ 12,392.86
Water Deposits	\$ 568.32	\$ 150.00
Water Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 30,125.82	\$ 25,584.23

Sewer Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Electric	\$ 57,413.59	\$ 87,018.71
Electric Generator Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Meter	\$ 2,331.50	\$ 450.00
Electric Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Required Improvements	\$ -	\$ -

December Treasurer's Report showing receipts and disbursements by fund as follows:

Fund	Expenses	Revenues
General	\$ 60,915.32	\$ 81,399.63
Munter Trust	\$ -	\$ -
Library Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Department	\$ -	\$ -
Swimming Pool	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Tree Board	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance	\$ -	\$ -
Civic Center	\$ -	\$ -
Police Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Street Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Industrial Park Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Pool Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Parks Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Road Use Tax	\$ 12,488.45	\$ 15,685.52
I-Jobs	\$ -	\$ -
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,353.71	\$ 6,994.26
Emergency Fund	\$ -	\$ 566.34
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ -	\$ 11,616.10
Tax Increment Financing	\$ -	\$ 2,368.01
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 3,518.84
CDBG Rehab Housing Project	\$ -	\$ -
Water	\$ 15,181.99	\$ 12,190.99
Water Deposits	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Water Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -

Sewer	\$ 15,660.85	\$ 28,248.19
Sewer Sinking	\$ 7,528.75	\$ -
Sewer Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Electric	\$ 60,383.35	\$ 77,291.72
Electric Generator Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Meter	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Electric Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Required Improvements	\$ -	\$ -

Claims

Gould requested the January 6, 2021 minutes be amended to read, “Moser School of Dance and Gymnastics submitted a request to rent the Civic Center from September 2021 through May 2022. Courtnage moved to renew the lease, increasing the monthly fee to \$125; seconded by Rowcliffe. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.” Hansel moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment to the January 6, 2021 minutes. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Council reviewed the December 2020 Delinquent Listing.

Council reviewed the January 12, 2021 Ambulance Board minutes. Per audit recommendations, and in response to the purchase of tires from Rodas Chevrolet, it was the consensus of the Council that all City departments should request multiple bids if a conflict of interest exists.

The Holiday Lighting Rebate Program had 49 applicants for a total program cost of \$980.

NEW BUSINESS

Rowcliffe moved to allow the Berry Tender Child Care Drive Thru Pancake Breakfast at the Civic Center on March 21, 2021. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gearhart, Gould. Nays: None. Abstain: Courtnage. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Berry Tender Child Care lease terms, as the lease had not been updated since 2018, with automatic renewal. Citing an appreciation for the organization’s investments in the property as well as displeasure for adding burden on the service the organization provides to the community, Gould moved to maintain the existing lease terms with Berry Tender Child Care for use of the Civic Center. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Rowcliffe, Gearhart, Hansel. Nays: None. Abstain: Courtnage. Motion passes.

Hansel moved to appoint Autumn Pope to the Ambulance Board. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to refund a building permit fee for Dale Osterkamp. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Electric Utility Manager Alan Wessels explained the five-year requirement for generation plant EPA testing and presented a proposal from Compliance Services, Inc in the amount of \$4,550. Hansel moved to approve the Compliance Services, Inc proposal for EPA testing. Gould seconded the motion. A

roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gould, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

In conjunction with the ceiling replacement project in the Civic Center All Purpose Room, Wessels also explained the need to revise the wiring to maintain access to junction boxes as the existing ceiling tiles are being replaced with steel. Several alternatives were discussed with the Wessels Electric proposal of \$2,200 to reroute the wiring presenting as the best option. Gould moved to accept the proposal from Wessels Electric. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Courtnage. Nays: Gearhart citing a request for a proposal to utilize access panels leaving the existing wiring in place. Motion passes.

At the request of Wilder Museum staff, the Council discussed replacing light fixtures. Courtnage moved to replace the existing ballasts with LED as they burn out. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Public Works Superintendent Erik Sauerbry advised the Council of the need to repair the boom on the bucket truck which services the electrical utility. The estimate for labor was \$2,000 plus parts, and staff will need to deliver the vehicle to St. Joseph, MO for the repairs. Hansel moved to repair the bucket truck. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the FY2019 and FY2020 Annual Financial Examinations and City Administrator Ashley Jasper's comments pertaining to each. Gould moved to accept the FY2020 Annual Financial Exam. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

There was discussion on a Resolution Authorizing Fiscal Transfers Regarding Water and Electrical Components of the Fire Station Building. Jasper advised against the resolution citing the water and electrical improvements were specific to the construction of the Fire Station, not to the respective utilities, and the Water Fund is not in a position to contribute to these expenses. Gearhart moved to approve Resolution #21-03 Authorizing Fiscal Transfers Regarding Water and Electrical Components of Fire Station Building striking Section 1 which authorized transfers from the Water Fund. Hansel seconded the motion. There was ongoing discussion about funding promises made to the Fire Department, and also about Jasper's recommendation. Gearhart withdrew his motion. With there being no further action on this item, Fire Chief Nic Stelken recommended to consider refinancing the debt at a lower interest rate, which Jasper will research and present options to Council.

Hansel moved to approve Resolution #21-03 Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Maximum Property Tax Dollars from Certain Levies. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes. The Hearing will be held at the City's regularly scheduled meeting at 6PM on February 17 in the Council Chambers.

After comparing the City's water rates to those of similar sized communities and reviewing the needs of the Water Utility Fund, it was the consensus of the Council to proceed with a 50% increase in water rates. Gearhart moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #21-01 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 68.02 and 68.02A to Change the Water Service Rates and Base Water Rate for All Water Customers. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes. There was no action to waive subsequent readings of Ordinance #21-01.

After comparing the City's sewer rental rates to those of similar sized communities and reviewing the needs of the Sewer Utility Fund, it was the consensus of the Council to proceed with a 15% increase in sewer rental rates. Gearhart moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #21-02 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 53.02 and 53.02A to Change the Sewer Rental Rate and the Base Sewer Rental Rate for All Sewer Customers. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Gould, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes. There was no action to waive subsequent readings of Ordinance #21-02.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rowcliffe confirmed the snowmobile trail signs had been put up. Hansel commended Public Works on their snow removal efforts.

With there being no other business, Hansel moved to adjourn at 7:03PM. Gearhart seconded the motion. All ayes.

Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

Hannah Evans, Mayor