

Vice-Mayor Joe Martin called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 5, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard and John Stauter. Absent: Mayor Skip Lee and Alderman Lou Sotelo.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and Assistant City Clerk Monique Castillo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rod Kleckler of Rock Falls took a survey, addressing several issues regarding the rental inspection program and asked to share some of the results. One person could not understand how a Code Enforcement officer could determine the adequate heating of a unit without a thermometer. One person had an issue with a "smelly" kitchen sink and the slow drainage of the sink and wondered how this issue could be addressed when there is not a code to reference. One person referenced rodent infestations and in accordance with city code is the responsibility of the tenant. The landlords would like to know how a City can tell them when, why and how they need to meet the guidelines of a code when the enforcing officers make it up as they go.

Shane Celestino of Sterling asked who the designated spokesperson was for the rental inspection program and wondered how this program was not considered to be unconstitutional with regards to the rights of the owners and occupants. He questioned the fairness of entering a residential location yet not businesses for inspection and wanted to know by what definition the city was using for the term "business". Manager Shumard explained the definition of the term "business" was not applicable and businesses are currently subject to annual inspections, performed by the Sterling Fire Department.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of December 15, 2014  
Special City Council Minutes of December 22, 2014
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$934,635.99
- C) Petition to expand the existing R-3 Special Use allowing the Planned Unit Development from Grand Victorian Assisted Living Center at 2705 Avenue E;  
Refer to Plan Commission

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Vice-Mayor Martin reminded Council members that the end of January was fast approaching and during budget meetings, the ½% sales tax was discussed for storm water run-off. Martin asked for a consensus to move forward to present this sales tax for the ballot in April. There was a general consensus to approve the ½% sales tax with 4 Ayes and 1 Nay. Martin asked Manager Shumard to prepare the ordinance for the referendum to be approved at the January 19, 2015 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Monique Castillo  
Assistant City Clerk