

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 21, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Mackenzie Hopping, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Financial Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer asked if the roundabout construction at Lynn and LeFevre will begin this spring. Manager Shumard stated it will. Brackemeyer asked why this was initiated. Shumard stated safety was the first concern. Brackemeyer wants statistics on how many tickets have been issued at that intersection. He asked if they were caused from people failing to yield on Lynn Boulevard or people on LeFevre not reducing their speed. Brackemeyer stated that he has a pet project he would like done, sidewalks in the 400 to 600 blocks of LeFevre. Brackemeyer presented a few chunks of the concrete curb from LeFevre to the Council.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A) Minutes of January 7, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$717,305.39

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass the Proclamation declaring January 21, 2019, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; seconded by Alderman Wise. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard explained the City has applied for USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grants since 2011 for the Lawrence Brothers building. A grant application will be submitted again this year. Shumard presented a timeline on the Lawrence Brothers Building. Taxes were last paid in 2004. Lawrence Brothers closed in 2006. The City filed suit and took ownership in 2011. An estimate for demolition eight years ago was

\$1.6 million, not including abatement or disposal. Joel Zirkle with Fehr Graham stated the grant application is nationwide and very competitive because no local funds are needed. Sterling may have a better chance with this application because local funds are being used to start assessments.

Alderman Wise made a motion to pass **Ordinance #2019-01-01 Modifying the Provisions of Chapter 94, Section 29, by providing for Certain Additions Related to Sewer Connections Outside the Corporate Limits**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Manager Shumard stated the fees would be implemented over a five-year period. Attorney Zollinger stated this comes into play when a property is or becomes contiguous. The Council can waive the annexation on a case by case basis. A pre-annexation agreement is binding for 20 years and can be renewed for continuing sewer service. These service agreements apply forward and do not affect pre-annexation agreements already in place. Residential properties would not meet these standards. Superintendent Schmidt believes annexation is black and white, with no exceptions. Alderman Hopping stated these are for commercial only, not affecting population. Zollinger stated the sewer service agreement can be used as an economic development tool. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to waive the requirements for annexation and allow Wahl Clipper to connect to the City's sewer while remaining outside City limits, subject to a Sewer Service Agreement; seconded by Alderman Martin. Attorney Zollinger cited several reasons for the agreement, such as industrial use, economic development, or new and/or additional employees. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass **Resolution #R2019-01-01 Ranking Qualifications and Preferences for Environmental Consultants Related to the Former Lawrence Brothers Hardware Project**; seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Stauter asked about a timeframe for the assessments at Lawrence Brothers. Joel Zirkle from Fehr Graham stated their firm could start in 30 days and be finished in 90 days. Zirkle reported the data would be good for two to three years. If extended to seven or eight years, IEPA may require updated information. Zirkle indicated Fehr Graham tries to get IEPA involved with those reviews without expense to the City. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Schmidt reported two more houses are scheduled for demolition: 2304 Spring Street and 305 Wallace Street.

Manager Shumard reported a large number of complaints registered during this last snow storm of vehicles parked in violation of the odd/even parking regulations. Although tickets were issued, the problem remains. Shumard asked if towing may be appropriate to get the message out. Council understood the lash back and suggested higher ticket prices and/or towing.

Alderman Elston asked when budget study sessions would start. Manager Shumard stated they should start at the next meeting. Elston felt that Brinkley's birthday party went well. She thanked the Fire Department for their quick response at a duplex in her area. Elston asked what can be done about spoofing phone numbers. Chief Morgan reported this a problem across the country. Elston thanked Alderman Hopping for her guest column about the roundabout in the newspaper. Elston shared condolences with the Mayor on the loss of his mother-in-law.

Alderman Wilen thanked Public Works for resolving an issue before she could even call.

Alderman Hopping read an excerpt from a book about Ruby Bridges, a young black girl, first to be integrated into the white school system. She felt it fitting for the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Alderman Martin recognized Clerk Rombouts for her award as the NIMCA Clerk of the Year, named after her predecessor, Rosemary Coughlin.

Mayor Lee thanked Public Works for their continual work on snow removal.

Finished with regular business, the Council adjourned to a study session at 7:45 pm.

Manager Shumard presented information on Street Maintenance funding and Methodologies with Brian Frickenstein of Willett, Hofmann & Associates, and Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader.

Selecting Roads and Roadwork to Date. The City performs small maintenance and repairs on the state routes. Funding for street maintenance now is provided through Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). The first ½% sales tax is designated for roadwork and the second ½% is designated to storm water detention.

The rating system to choose streets is cost-prohibitive to rescore each year. Factors considered are amount of deterioration, road base condition, curb & gutter, drainage and traffic amount. Non-factors are location and complaints. These factors are

replaced with imminent needs, such as the Avenue G bridge, ADA requirements in the downtown, and partnerships with Illinois American Water Company (IAWC) for main replacements.

Manager Shumard explained the City has chosen to build out curb and gutter in street projects which makes construction more expensive. Less money can be spent on overlays with no curb work or sidewalk involved. It is a determination on how to spend the money wisely.

Shumard distributed packets for an exercise to rate streets and determine the scope of a project. Shumard left the Council with the packets to review and rate for the next two weeks.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk