

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 21, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: None.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Darlane Davis asked when the utility tax would tax affect. Attorney Coplan explained the ordinance was passed in December for Commonwealth Edison and NICOR gas. The City is still working with the utility companies to get it worked out. Coplan anticipated passage in April with implementation in May.

Darlane Davis asked about the local television station and when Council programming would be available. Manager Shumard stated he would contact the school to update City information.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of March 7, 2016
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$905,643.74
- C) Resolution #R2016-3-4 Authorizing the Transfer of the Title of 807 Avenue E, a single-family dwelling, from the City of Sterling to the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation**

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

Chief Gary Cook announced that the pinning of Firefighter Kurt Landis would have to be postponed because he is at a house fire.

Acting Chief Morgan read a letter of commendation for Youth Officer Maggie Ellmaker in handling a very difficult case and following through for desired results.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the bid to Martin and Company Excavating for the Sixth Avenue Road Reconstruction and Sewer Extension in the amount of \$636,066.35; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the bid for the ADA sidewalks at the intersections of Third Street/Fourth Avenue and First Avenue/Second Street to Twin City

Construction in the amount of \$167,777.77; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Alderman Conklin asked how often standards change and if we would have to reconstruct these intersections. Manager Shumard stated that IDOT demanded that these intersections be reconstructed, no matter what the cost. Alderman Stauter asked how many intersections are left to do. Manager Shumard stated there are five or six more intersections to reconstruct and the City must provide a bond to guarantee the work for five years. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget at the 6:30 pm meeting on Monday, April 4, 2016, seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2016-3-1 Amending the Gaming Devices Ordinance** to require any liquor establishment wishing to operate gaming devices to have a Class C, D, E, or F liquor license; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Attorney Coplan updated the Council on the Utility Tax Ordinance. Coplan stated the ordinance was passed in December of 2015 with local exemptions. Counsel for the gas and electric companies did not think these exemptions should be in the ordinance. The exemption for Sterling Steel is permitted because of the Enterprise Zone and how many jobs have been retained. Following passage of the ordinance, necessary account audits will be performed. Coplan is waiting an ordinance from the utilities.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Inducement Resolution #R2016-3-5 for Sterling Today** to permit them to commence work on the demolition of the Fung Ming building in the TIF District; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Martin asked how many parking spaces are expected. Sterling Main Street Director Janna Groharing stated there should be 15 parking spaces and the street frontage will look like a storefront instead of a parking lot. Alderman Martin asked how many apartments are anticipated in the Lawrence Building. Groharing reported 20 apartments. Alderman Stauter asked if this is in the existing CBD TIF District. Manager Shumard confirmed that it is in the existing TIF. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Inducement Resolution #R2016-3-6 for John Brady** to permit him to commence additional work on 315 First Avenue in the CBD-East TIF District; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Acting Chief Morgan stated that the Sterling Police Department Annual Report was sent electronically to the Council. There are a few in-house printed copies for the public to

review. Discussion followed on the number of officers the City needs to hire, how long to train, and the safety of citizens.

Alderman Wilen asked about mattresses and other things piled up at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Superintendent Schmidt will look into the matter.

Alderman Elston stated that yard waste is being picked up. She also thanked Schmidt and Shumard for their help with a resident who needed answers.

Alderman Schuchard thanked whomever was responsible for picking up his fence that fell into Third Street during one of the recent wind storms.

Mayor Lee adjourned the regular meeting at 7:14 pm to hold a study session for budget review.

Mayor Lee asked Superintendent Schmidt about electronic recycling. Schmidt reported they met with a company in Rockford. The City would rather not be the center for recycling. Self Help currently recycles electronics. The company in Rockford felt there should be no fee, because there should be revenue. Self Help will quit electronic recycling in June or July. Manager Shumard believes the County should take a larger role in the recycling because they do not want electronics in the landfill.

Manager Shumard announced that the General Insurance decreased by 8.5%, instead of increasing by 10%, giving the budget an additional \$100,000. Council budget was decreased in the Travel and Training line item. Manager Shumard presented the City seal and expressed his desire to update it. Funds have been added to the Clerk's budget for that project. Shumard stated that if the utility tax is not in place, the budget would be less. A Management Intern and part-time secretary are still in the budget but are not likely this year. The budget is \$229,000 to the good. Shumard stated there will be another expenditure in the Capital Fund for a cap and fencing at the Riverfront where the dirt has been hauled in. Shumard estimated the cap and fence to extend approximately 600'. Acting Chief Morgan suggested installing cameras at the site to discourage vandalism.

Council members asked various questions regarding the Best Cobb Building, Lawrence Brothers' roof, Riverfront and Grandon plans, increase in sewer and garbage billing, "welcome" signs on the City gateways, Abiding Word Christian Center, and updated communications

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.