

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 1, 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 Services 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 Assistant City Clerk Monique Castillo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Janna Groharing, Sterling Main Street, is thankful for the working relationship she has with the City and Chamber of Commerce. Groharing explained she just returned from a National Conference and found it to be very rare among other communities.

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

- A) Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,660,262.63
- C) Approval of Plan Commission minutes of February 22, 2019
- D) Acceptance of the bid, to Stitcher Excavating, for demolition of a single family dwelling located at 611 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the amount of \$9,740
- E) Contract with Rock Falls for Gary Cook
- F) Sterling Kiwanis to hold a bucket brigade on May 4, 2019
- G) Refer to Plan Commission a Petition to rezone property located at 1701 6<sup>th</sup> Ave from SR-4 to SR-4/PIO

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

Von Holten reported we entered into an agreement with Azavar in 2018 to recover lost revenue. Since, we have collected \$927 and we are not finished.

James Jones, Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation, gave details on a new rehabilitation grant that is now available to homeowners. Jones further explained they also offer financial education programs. Information regarding this program will be made available to residents in the Code Enforcement Department.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 5, 2019 as Junior Achievement Day. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hopping. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, Wise and Elston. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and presented Manager Shumard with a Proclamation. Manager Shumard has been involved with the program for the past eight years. This year he will be teaching a group of 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

At 6:43 p.m., Mayor Lee opened a Public Hearing on the FY 2019-2020 Budget.

Chief Morgan noted the annual report was out for review. Alderman Elston was impressed with all the Community projects and crash report information. Morgan noted they will focus on community partnerships and filling the 6 police officer vacancies.

Manager Shumard outlined several items that will be done this fiscal year: Public Market, Round About, new fire engine, Phase 1 of Public Works building, Riverfront security and lighting, Central Park, stormwater projects at the Mall, Dillon Avenue, Douglas Park and Miller Road/Second Avenue, and street projects on Sixth Avenue and East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Overall, he is pleased with where we stand for this upcoming fiscal year.

The public meeting closed at 7:34 p.m.

Schrader mentioned there is a company in the area performing manhole rehabilitations. He noted it was a pretty neat process. He welcomed anyone that was interested to see the process, to contact him and schedule a visit.

Alderman Martin reminded all in attendance to get out and vote. He wished the candidates luck and thanked everyone for their involvement.

Alderman Hopping visited a local downtown business, Primitive Frills, and raved about the location, different programs they offered, and the welcoming atmosphere.

Alderman Wilen also reminded all to vote, noting the last election had a very low turnout.

Alderman Elston was pleased to witness a group of kids from Lincoln School pick up trash in Lincoln Park. She loved this proactive approach to keep our City and parks clean. Elston attended Business-After-Hours at the Corner Gallery, last month. She was pleased with the business, having never been there before, and suggested starting an art trail in the community. She gave special thanks to Schmidt and Schrader for their prompt service.

Alderman Stauter also reminded all to vote and noted the importance of researching all candidates beforehand.

Alderman Wise recognized Autism Awareness Day and noted an interesting fact, years ago the statistic of having an autistic child was 1 in 160. Today, it is 1 in 59!

Alderman Martin thanked the Chamber of Commerce and Sterling Main Street for all the work they do with the City and noted there is sometimes a lot of misunderstanding. As a council we need to work closely with Manager Shumard to do a better job and stay educated.

Shumard recognized the great promotion efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and proposed this may be a future endeavor the City look into for various city wide promotions.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.



Monique Castillo, Assistant City Clerk