

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 4, 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, Deputy Chief Mike Dettman, Acting Police Chief Tim Morgan, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Scott Howard, WHA Engineer Brian Frickenstein, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rod Kleckler explained that he had been reading minutes from Sterling's Study Sessions and understands the Council is planning to beautify entryways to the City. He suggested Sterling start with the Lawrence Brothers building that they own. The roof is in poor shape and windows have been broken out. The City needs to lead by example and take care of their building.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of March 21, 2016
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,130,275.63
- C) Resolution #R2016-4-8 to Close Fourth Street for Memorial Day Services**
- D) Resolution #R2016-4-9 to Close Fourth Street for Movies at Grandon**
- E) Resolution #R2016-4-10 to Close Fourth Street for Band Concerts**
- F) Resolution #R2016-4-11 to Close Second Street for Sterling Main Street's Car Show**
- G) Awarding contract to demolish 1104 Dillon Avenue to Stichter Construction, of Erie, Illinois, in the amount of \$7,420.00
- H) Awarding contract to demolish 302 West Fourth Street to CP's Demolition Services, of Sterling, Illinois, in the amount of \$10,000.00

Alderman Elston was happy to see the street closings for upcoming summer activities, such as movies and band concerts. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin.

Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen.

Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Gary Cook introduced Kurt Landis who has completed his probationary period. He was pinned by his father, Randy Landis.

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim April 10 – 16, 2016 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim April 7, 2016 as Junior Achievement Day; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Manager Shumard gave an update on the Riverfront. Hoping for a \$400,000 grant for the Lawrence Brothers Building. Income from renting the building to Best Cobb is adding funds to the NWSW Redevelopment Fund. The dirt cap is in place with help from the Mud to Parks Grant. Trees and grass have been planted through the IGIG grant. The Wallace Street roundabout will move Wallace Street a little to the south for more land between the street and the railroad tracks.

Mayor Lee asked Council members which of the key initiatives from the Strategic Plan they would like to work on. Assignments were Neighborhood Life – Martin and Conklin; Community Sustainability – Wilen and Elston, City services – Stauter, and Communications – Schuchard. Mayor Lee stated that Economic Development was probably out of the Council's hands. He asked for reports at the next meeting.

Mayor Lee asked Aldermen for any suggestions on study sessions. Suggestions were for Code Enforcement, Personnel Manual, TIF Districts, and penalties for items, such as parking on snow routes. Mayor Lee suggested that Council contact Marie with any questions or suggestions to add to the agenda.

Mayor Lee opened the public hearing for the budget at 7:14 pm. Manager Shumard presented numbers and details on the upcoming budget. The General Fund and Pensions continue to rise. EAV for property taxes are up .12%, sales tax are predicted to decrease .40%, income tax is predicted to increase 2%, and franchise fees are estimated to decrease 5%. The utility taxes on electric and gas are expected to increase revenues by \$700,000. The proposed budget stands at \$32,848,439. There were no comments from the public. The public hearing closed at 7:31 pm.

Alderman Martin made a motion to waive the bid process and enter into an agreement with Illinois American Water Company for resurfacing Avenue L from West 11<sup>th</sup> Street to West LeFevre Road; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Brian Frickenstein with Willett, Hofmann & Associates, reported this project is similar to the two projects last year. Bids are even better than last year because the cost of bituminous is down. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2016-4-2 Regarding Municipal Utility Tax**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Attorney Coplan explained this ordinance is a little more expansive than the original ordinance. Manager Shumard noted the expiration date coincides with the Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone application will be renewed and the ordinance will most likely be renewed at that time as well. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2016-4-7 Increasing the Cost of Certified Birth and Death Records**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates to complete specifications and solicit bids to cap off existing sewers to reduce stormwater or groundwater infiltration in the vicinity of the Miller Street Lift Station; seconded By Alderman Martin. Superintendent Howard explained there were a couple alternatives proposed to clean up this area and this was the least expensive way to plug off lines and upgrade the pumping for approximately \$100,000. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to direct the engineer to work with the contractor to expand the work on Sixth Avenue by change order based upon bid quantity pricing to continue sewer and road work to Fifth Avenue and Folkers Road; seconded by Alderman Elston. Frickenstein reported the original project included Fifth Avenue and Folkers Road but because of funding restraints, the project was reduced to Sixth Avenue. A grant was applied for and not received. The City can apply for the grant next year but with very good pricing, work could cost more next year. Frickenstein asked if the Council wanted to approach the contractor to continue the project at the unit prices from Sixth Avenue. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston asked when Green and Clean Days are scheduled. Manager Shumard stated May 13 and 14. Mayor Lee reminded citizens that with spring cleaning not everything can be dumped on the curb for pick-up. Electronics must be taken to Self Help for recycling. Mayor Lee also reported that he has an email address for someone from Comcast if anyone is having service problems. He posted it to his Facebook page.

Manager Shumard gave a brief overview of the updated Personnel Manual. The last Personnel Manual was passed in July of 1997.

Manager Shumard rolled through photos of the screw pumps at Wastewater Treatment Plant during the repair process.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to adjourn to a "Closed Session" at 8:31 pm for Deliberations concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Municipal Employees as provided for in subsection (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 8:58 pm; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk