

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 20, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: Alderman Barry Cox.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, City Management Intern Kevin Smith, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

Thomas Valdez with Boy Scouts Troop 305 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry Woosley stated the Kleckler recently received information from a FOIA request on the Rental Program. There has been no activity. There were two letters – one of support and a landlord objecting to the program. Woosley found 130 communities have instituted a rental inspection program and half of those are in the suburbs. Woosley finds no proof that we need this program. We need to find jobs to eliminate the poverty.

Mayor Lee removed 5F from the agenda because Marie Rombouts was re-appointed to the Fire Pension Board last year.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of April 6, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,003,420.16
- C) Change Order No. 1 for Structural Slab Demolition Project in the amount of \$17,500.00
- D) Partial Pay Request No. 1 for Structural Slab Demolition Project in the amount of \$121,042.46 to Burke Excavating
- E) Accept bid to construct a new single-family dwelling located at 902 Fourth Avenue in the amount of \$155,311.52 and a two-family dwelling at 1012 West Fourth Street in the amount of \$192,563.04; contractor for both is Trotter General Contracting of Macomb, IL

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim April 24, 2015 as Arbor Day in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to open the budget hearing at 6:38 pm; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard presented information on the budget. First, he summarized the amended budget and then proceeded into the proposed FY 2015-16 budget. Shumard noted there will be a deficit of \$300,000 but would work with that until it is determined if the state will be sweeping funding from the City.

Alderman Elston asked how much money has been saved for a future wastewater treatment plant. Manager Shumard reported \$10 million has been saved but a new plant could cost in excess of \$25 million.

Shirley Sharp stated that when discussion is centered around Sixth Avenue being reconstructed for students going to school; she stated that students do not use Sixth Avenue. Sharp asked that they be honest why they are reconstructing the street and sidewalk. Manager Shumard explained the Park District is receiving a grant to expand the sidewalk on the east side of Sixth Avenue. The City will reconstruct the street after sewer work is complete.

Mayor Lee closed the public hearing at 6:59 pm.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-04-06 Amending the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget year, increased by \$1,242,124**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-04-07 Adopting the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget in the amount of \$30,323,010**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-04-08 Amending Chapter 74 of the Sterling City Code as it relates to Solid Waste, with an increase of \$.30 for a total of \$15.60 monthly**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-04-09 Amending Chapter 94 of the Sterling City Code as it relates to Wastewater Service Charges, with an increase of \$.09 per 100 cubic feet of usage**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the write-off of uncollectible accounts totaling \$40,075.74 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Alderman Stauter asked how accounts will be handled for these people moving forward. Director Von Holten stated that they will be reviewing the listings given from Illinois American Water Company. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2015-4-11 Adopting a Pay Plan for the Fiscal Year 2015-16, with a 1% general increase**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard explained this pay scale for non-union employees includes a 1% increase, effective May 27. Firefighters are receiving a 1.75% increase and Police Officers are undetermined because the contract has not been resolved. This increase will take affect when the medical insurance is increased by 15%, with deductibles being changed. The salary survey is being completed. Alderman Stauter asked if there is a timeline for the results of the salary surveys. Manager Shumard stated they are waiting for communities to respond with comparable information. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin congratulated the winners of the election, as well as those who stepped forward to have their name placed on the ballot. Martin did express disdain for such a poor voter turnout.

Alderman Elston asked when Clean and Green is scheduled. Manager Shumard reported the dates are May 16 and 17. There will be drop off locations for large items.

Manager Shumard reported that Avenue G construction will begin April 27. It will be closed to replace bridge joints.

Alderman Stauter seconded Joe's comment about the low turnout of voters. Stauter was disappointed that the ½% sales tax failed. He stated the Council will need to determine if they will continue to kick the can down the road.

Alderman Elston thanked City staff for their work on the budget.

Mayor Lee thanked the candidates who ran for election.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk