

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 16, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Alderman Chris Schuchard.

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, Police Lt. Jeff Mohr, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sharon Simester, with the Landlords Association, reported they will be doing a local clean up focusing on televisions that are accumulating. Rock Falls has committed \$1000 to help defray expenses. Manager Shumard stated that Public Works should have a contract in place in the next two months for free drop off.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of May 2, 2016
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,301,094.62
- C) Request to waive the bid process and purchase three (3) 2016 Ford Taurus from Landmark Ford in the amount of \$55,680
- D) Partial Pay Request #1 for Martin and Company for Sixth Avenue Roadway and Sanitary Sewer Project in the amount of \$49,030.65
- E) Low Bid from CP's Demolition Services to demolish 807 Avenue E in the amount of \$4,000
- F) Refer to Plan Commission a City-initiated petition to rezone several properties currently zoned LM Light Manufacturing to CB Community Business to allow for a number of businesses to be compliant with the zoning code

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Conklin asked if CP's Demolition is the property owner to the south of the Coliseum and asked why we should give him a contract when he is in violation of City ordinances. Attorney Coplan explained our City Code does not prevent a responsible low bidder from being awarded a contract because he has an ordinance violation. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Clerk Rombouts administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Harry Blomstrand.

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim May 15 - 21, 2016 as National Public Works Week; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin,

Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim May 8 - 14, 2016 as National Nursing Home Week; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Aldermen Elston and Wilen presented information on the Lawrence Brothers Building. They had met with a citizen that prepared a sketch of painting the boarded windows from one color and blending to white. Manager Shumard suggested plexiglass or a poly carbonate instead of boarding up windows to bring light into the building.

Council asked for more information on Amusement Devices and comparisons to other communities.

Alderman Martin made a motion to award the 50/50 Sidewalk Contract to Burger Brothers in the amount of \$9.50 per square foot and accompanying curb costs; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Alderman Martin asked if this bid was in line with last year's bid. Manager Shumard stated this is significantly higher, approximately \$3.00 more per square foot. Martin wants to see this program continue and suggested we allocate more money next year to avoid a long waiting list. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the Miller Street Lift Station project to the low bidder, Stichter Construction of Erie, in the amount of \$70,733.14; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard stated this should alleviate a large problem in the old mill area of excess run-off water. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Personnel Manual Updates; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Attorney Coplan stated he had almost a 41 year run with the City and appreciated working with almost everyone. Mayor Lee thanked Coplan for his service and his historical and legal knowledge. Lee stated that Coplan has been a calming effect and wished him well.

Manager Shumard thanked Janna Groharing and Brad Schrader for their work on the Clean & Green. Shumard reported the Strategic Plan is being sent to the binder and should be ready for distribution soon. Soil testing went well for Second Street projects and the Sixth Avenue project. The bid opening for sidewalk at Urban Outlet is soon. A 700' well at NWSW will be cleaned up. Union negotiations will begin May 25. Summer

hires are starting work this week and next. Without an intern, we may hire a couple more summer help for clean-up projects.

Alderman Martin recognized Brad Alexander for his help in resolving a problem in his neighborhood. Martin encouraged everyone to attend Main Street's Car Show on Sunday and enjoy a pork chop with the Optimists.

Mayor Lee and the Council appreciated working with Ron Coplan and wished him well.

Alderman Stauter reported that Clean & Green was great but too cold.

Manager Shumard distributed the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a City Attorney. Shumard stated what a steady hand Coplan has been for him.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned to a study session at 7:36 pm.

Superintendent Schmidt described the positions in the Code Enforcement Department. She explained the process of placing a door hanger for a violation and distributed copies of letters sent that request compliance.

Mayor Lee asked if we ever use people that have to perform Community Service. Lee asked what the Council can do to support Code Enforcement. Schmidt stated supporting their actions and acknowledging what has been accomplished.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk