

Mayor Charles L. “Skip” Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 21, 2018. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

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 Deputy Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and Assistant City Clerk Monique Castillo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no communications from Visitors.

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

A) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,243,193.17

B) 2018-2019 MICA Insurance Renewal Premium in the amount of \$680,818.00

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

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring May 20-26, 2018 as National Public Works Week. The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Martin, Stauter, Wilen, Wise and Elston. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard noted the Public Works Department has been busy this year, with several street projects, curb and sidewalk projects, Clean and Green, etc. Shumard commended Schrader and his crew for their efforts.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring June 2, 2018 as American Cancer Society Relay For Life Day. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Stauter, Wilen, Wise, Elston and Martin. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to raise from the table, **Ordinance #2018-04-07** Amending the Liquor Code, to permit certain events on public property when authorized by the Liquor Control Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Wilen, Wise, Elston, Martin and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter suggested to change some of the wording.

Alderman Wise asked the attending liquor control board members, Aldermen Elston and Martin, their take on this ordinance. Alderman Martin is against said ordinance. Alderman Elston is for said ordinance. Wise then inquired how Mayor Lee would impact the decision. For example if Mayor Lee was in favor of a request for review, could he overturn the votes of the Liquor Control Board?

Zollinger noted as the ordinance reads now, it is by majority vote. Amending the wording would amend the meaning and he suggested the council consider if they wish the ordinance to be by consensus, by approval or by majority vote.

Discussion continued regarding the location, other amendments were suggested and possible meeting times of the Liquor Control Board for future events. The general consensus was that there is no need for added amendments. The location is defined in the ordinance. Wednesday is the most convenient time for meetings.

Alderman Elston made a motion to amend **Ordinance #2018-04-07** Amending the Liquor Code to permit certain events on public property when authorized by the Liquor Control Commissioner, striking *consultation with the Liquor Control Board* in Sec 3(d), and replacing with *approval by the Liquor Control Board*. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Wise, Elston, Martin, Stauter and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve, as amended, **Ordinance #2018-04-07 Amending the Liquor Code to permit certain events on public property when authorized by the Liquor Control Commissioner**. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Wilen and Wise. Nays – Alderman Martin. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the per diem in the travel and training policy. New Officer Tabatha Justice was allotted \$4,704 in per diem. She remitted back to the city \$2,217.27 in cash and documentation, the remainder, minus \$74.64 which was undocumented. She submitted a detailed memo indicating she contributed to 2 class funds during the training in the amount of \$20 each where no receipt was available. This leaves \$34.64 undocumented. It has been recommended to not demand the undocumented amount of \$34.64 in per diem advanced.

The general consensus of the council was to adhere to the current policy. Allowing for this variance will welcome future variances. The council does not welcome this practice, hence the reason for the current policy.

Von Holten inquired, if approved, the actual amount that would be granted \$34.64 or \$74.64. There was a general consensus to amend the variance amount from \$34.64 to \$74.64.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve, as amended, a Variance to the City's Travel and Training Policy by not demanding a remaining balance of \$74.64 in per diem advanced to Officer Tabatha Justice while attending the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting – Ayes: Aldermen Wise. Nays – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter and Wilen. Motion denied.

Alderman Martin made a motion to enter into an agreement with Azavar for Contingent fee professional services. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stauter.

There was discussion regarding the actual need for this type of service. Alderman Wise asked Von Holten if she felt we might recoup any revenues from this process. Von Holten stated she

was uncertain but noted it would be beneficial, even if any revenue found was minimal, considering there would be added cost if no revenue was found. It's a win-win.

Zollinger asked Von Holten with regard to payments, if she understood that we could potentially be waiting to receive payments up to 3 years after the research was completed but the City would owe the contingent fee immediately. Von Holten stated this was unclear to her but she could look into it further.

Alderman Wise commended Von Holten on the information she had presented but felt there were unanswered questions; therefore not enough information to make a proper recommendation. Wise suggested to table this item until such time additional information could be provided.

Alderman Wise made a motion to table the Contingent fee professional services agreement with Azavar, pending further information. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting – Ayes: Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin reported residents in his neighborhood have been mowing grass into the street. As it is that time of year, he suggested a letter be sent to all residents, via the utility bill, to remind them this is unacceptable. Martin also reminded the Mayor it was time to schedule a review for Manager Shumard.

Alderman Wilen reported she too had a similar experience with her neighbors mowing grass into the street. She knocked on her neighbors' door to verbally remind them. They were very welcoming and appreciative of the information.

Alderman Elston reported a Memorial Day Celebration will be held at the Grandon Civic Center on May 28, 2018 at 11:00 am.

Elston commended the success of the first Pop-Up market. Stating it was well organized and got a lot of people to the downtown area.

Elston inquired about the City trailer and its availability. Superintendent Schrader noted it is currently available, however, they are working with JJM Printing to put a design wrap on the trailer.

Elston commended Manager Shumard for his ongoing updates to social media. She also inquired about road work on State routes. Manager Shumard stated IDOT knows about these issues but ran out of funding. He suggested to contact legislators to push for action. Elston suggested he put that information on Social Media.

Alderman Stauter inquired about the progress with the flow meters. Schrader noted there is not enough data to make an accurate report. It could take up to two months.

Alderman Wise requested any in-house data with regard to State Routes 2 and 40, in reference to Alderman Elston's inquiry of needed road repairs. Wise also commended Shumard on his social media posts.

The meeting adjourned to a Study session at 7:42 pm

Jim Pozzi, Republic Services, took a brief moment to introduce himself, thank the City for their continued business and welcomed questions or comments regarding the new contract.

Alderman Elston was concerned about the length of the contract and 3% annual increases, noting our employees don't even get a 3% increase.

Pozzi explained the reasoning behind the increase, noting the CPI/Consumer Product Index is above 4% for water, sewer and trash. It is costing a lot more to recycle, where it use to be \$35/ton is now costing upwards of \$50/ton. Pozzi stated the increase in the cost of recycling is due to improper recycling; glass is too heavy. The future of recycling is less is more, especially if it is a clean stream.

Mayor Lee suggested more education on the proper way to recycle.

The general consensus is to approve the long term contract, although it is not ideal with the 3% annual increase. The council does, however, see the benefit to avoid greater increases in the future.

Shumard gave a brief introduction on engaging millennials and young leaders. He stated we need to attract the younger generation back to the community, in an effort to get the generation after them to follow.

Kris Noble, Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, suggested a panel discussion with area leaders and a select group of "millennials."

Noble stated she has a group of 20-60 young adults that are eager to be engaged and learn more about city politics, private/public partnerships, what goals the city may have to grow and how they might be able to help reach these goals.

Noble also noted each of these young adults are different in what they are hoping to achieve with this project. Some want to be empowered where others just want to be heard. There are so many challenges and opportunities for all and they are a very fascinating group.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Monique Castillo  
Assistant City Clerk