

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

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rod Kleckler encourages the Council and staff to get on track with their storm water program. Storm water damage is evident. Funding needs to be in order to address these situations. Kleckler stated that his property at Shinkle Avenue and 20th Street was like an island. He calls annually to have the catch basins in the area and a tube under the road cleaned. Kleckler supports a utility tax for storm water. More properties also need to separate their storm and sanitary sewers.

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

- A) Special City Council Minutes of June 29, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$486,331.19
- C) Partial Pay Request #4 to Martin and Company Excavating for work being done at the Plant 1 site of the former Northwestern Steel and Wire site in the amount of \$29,835.00
- D) Accept the low bid for the demolition of a two-story structure and detached garage at 509 Fifth Avenue by Burke Excavating, Inc., with National Foreclosure Settlement Grant funds
- E) Petition from the Sterling Optimist Club to hold a bucket brigade on July 18, 2015 to raise funds for Scholarships

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

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to wave the bid process and enter into a construction agreement with Illinois American Water Company for the reconstruction of approximately 1240' of West LeFevre Road; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Manager Shumard explained that the water company gave us advance notice of these repairs so we could work with them and build a better street instead of leaving it with patches. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Deputy Chief Dettman reported that Jim Alumbaugh retired in June. His replacement will begin July 8.

Manager Shumard asked Council members to get back with him on dates for weekend availability to work on the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Lee asked Deputy Chief Dettman about a "knox box". Dettman stated they were primarily used for commercial but are now available for residences. The box contains a key to the door to save emergency personnel from removing or knocking down the door. Dettman recommends the "knox box", especially for the elderly.

Manager Shumard, in the absence of Aldermen Elston, reminded everyone the movie, *Polar Express*, is Tuesday night.

Alderman Conklin reported a call from Terry Kuchel at 1409 Third Avenue. Kuchel was concerned about the trees that are down at an abandoned house next door. Superintendent Schmidt reported the City has been mowing the property and it has been cleaned up to the extent possible. Chief Potthoff reported that 1411 Third Avenue was seized in a drug case. The State Police with the City own the property and research will be done as to how to get the tree cleaned up.

Alderman Wilen reported that she had working with a citizen along East LeFevre about the sidewalk and the issue has been clarified by City staff.

Alderman Stauter reminded citizens that it will take a while for the City to pick up all the branches from the storm.

Alderman Schuchard stated that he had just returned home and was impressed with what the road crews had already cleaned up.

Superintendent Schrader reported that the crews are east of Sixth Avenue and south of LeFevre Road in their westward sweep of the City.

Mayor Lee thanked all personnel for their efforts in the last few weeks following this storm.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk