

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 15, 2013. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: Christopher Schuchard.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Assistant to the City Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, Acting Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Li Arellano, owner of Jimmy John's in Dixon, explained that he has been trying to open a store in Sterling. He has been working with City staff and Wendler Engineering. Plans have been revised and still rejected. The City guidelines will cost him a great deal of money while other businesses do not comply with these guidelines because they were grandfathered. Code Enforcement has been great to work with but the new requirements preclude the small businessman from proceeding with new development in Sterling.

Alderman Cox stated that this is not the first time he has heard this complaint.

Superintendent Schmidt reported that Arellano first contacted her in May and she has been working with him regarding design guidelines that were passed in 2008. The new building would be surrounded by asphalt, which brings concerns about water run-off, green space, and egress.

Mayor Lee asked if Schmidt is still working with Arellano. Schmidt stated that she is.

Alderman Cox stated that this is the first he has heard from Arellano, but he has heard how local businessmen feel about the road blocks for small businesses and how we try to accommodate large corporations.

Mayor Lee explained that Arellano has not been treated differently than other businesses.

Manager Shumard explained the initial plan from Wendler diagrammed parking in the City right-of-way.

Alderman Sotelo defended the design guidelines because Sterling wants to protect what we have and what will be developed.

Alderman Elston encouraged Arellano to continue working with the City because her children were very excited to hear about the possibilities of Jimmy John's in Sterling.

Alderman Martin suggested the City work with the GSDC to provide incentives for small businesses to get started. Alderman Cox readily agreed.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) Minutes from July 1, 2013 meeting
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$515,4485.13
- C) Bid to rehabilitate a single-family dwelling at 1213 12th Avenue by Everything Property, LLC in the amount of \$82,734.00 with NSP2 funds
- D) Partial Pay Request #13 for City Hall remodeling to Sjostrom & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$135,158.97
- E) Plan Commission Minutes for May 16, 2013
- F) Bid for Fire Department turnout gear to Illinois Fire Store in the amount of \$36,700.00
- G) Partial Pay Request #1 to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$50,040.81 for 2013 Street Projects Contract #1
- H) Purchase of unmarked vehicle, 2012 Ford Fusion, for Police Department from Pete Harkness Auto Group in the amount of \$9,997.00, with trade-in of 2004 Chevrolet Impala

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

Chief Potthoff introduced Michael Migliorisi, a new police officer. Migliorisi is 25 years old, serves in the National Guard and is married to Katie.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring Tuesday, August 6, 2013, as National Night Out; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Mayor Lee announced that activities will take place in Douglas, Wallace, Propheter, Lincoln and Kilgour Parks in Sterling and Centennial Park in Rock Falls. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Martin made a motion to pass **Ordinance #2013-07-22 Amending Article III Section 94 of the City Code pertaining to water wells**; seconded by Alderman Elston. As part of the IEPA approved Remedial Action Plan for the clean-up of the former Northwestern Steel and Wire site, the City must prohibit new potable wells in an area bounded by Third Street to the north, the Rock River to the south, First Avenue to the east and Avenue G to the west. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook reported on the repairs to Engine 3. Rennert's Fire Equipment Service of Deforest, Wisconsin, did repairs and sent the truck home. During the drive home, the primer assembly became dislodged and caused damage under the truck. Rennert's has stood behind the work and is completing all repairs at no additional cost to the City.

Chief Cook also reported that the fire in Prophetstown destroyed eight buildings. They were short on water and drew water from the Rock River. Because of the age of the buildings, there were no fire sprinklers to slow the spread of the fire.

Hadley Skeffington-Vos reported the movie went well last week. Next week's movie will kick off activities on Thursday, with Fourth Fridays on Friday, and the Music Fest on Saturday.

Superintendent Schmidt reported that the house on 16th Avenue is down and the house on Fourth Avenue is scheduled for demolition in two weeks after the fire and police complete training in the house.

Alderman Elston thanked Public Works for the extra garbage cans they provided for the last movie.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:05 pm to discuss purchase or leasing of real property as covered under 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5); seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 7:20 pm; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

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

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk