

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 5, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman Christine Wilen.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer acknowledged the City is working on updating the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested to look at the sidewalk along LeFevre between Fourth and Sixth Avenues. He was happy to hear that one block of sidewalk will be replaced soon; one block at a time. Brackemeyer also suggested crosswalks near CGH and the school to be marked better.

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

- A) Minutes of July 15, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,874,476.44
- C) Pay Request for Pavement Markings in the Central Business District to Marking Specialists Corporation in the amount of \$105,162.29
- D) Partial Pay Request #2 for the Avenue G Bridge to ERA Valdivia Contractors in the amount of \$133,428.87
- E) Partial Pay Request #5 for the Dillon Avenue Phase 1 to Twin city Construction in the amount of \$138,982.72
- F) Petition from Vickie Pfortmiller to hold a block party and close the 1800 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue on August 17, 2019
- G) Sterling Fire Department to hold a bucket brigade on August 24, 2019

Motion seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Stauter noticed the Police Department orders many supplies from Amazon. Stauter stated that the City preaches to purchase local and wants to know why the City does not do that. Chief Morgan stated they do order from Amazon because of the savings; it is savings or buy local. Kris Noble stated local merchants know that it is hard to beat the prices from Amazon. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass Proclamation for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 2019; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record. Chief Morgan invited everyone to meet at the following locations from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Tuesday: Douglas Park, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on LeFevre, Wallace Park, and Kilgour Park.

Alderman Wise made a motion to pass Proclamation Declaring National Farmers Market Week August 4 – 10, 2019, seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record. Manager Shumard reported work on the Market structure should begin in two weeks.

Mayor Lee stated it is a great honor to recognize two residents that have served on boards and commissions for the City.

Mayor Lee recognized Spencer Schein for serving from June 2007 to June 2019 on the Fire-Police Commission.

Mayor Lee recognized Eric Larson for serving from June 2007 to June 2019 on the Plan Commission.

Mayor Lee asked Chief Morgan to present the letters of commendation to Sgt. Joshua Weber, Officer Tabitha Justice, and Officer Alejandro Rivera. Morgan reported these officers delivered a baby on July 23, 2019 at 2:30 am. The mother was moments away from delivering when these officers assisted before medical personnel arrived at the scene.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the bid for Dillon Avenue Reconstruction Phase 2 to Civil Constructors in the amount of \$1,242,131.69; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard noted work on Phase 1 is wrapping up. There will be a detention pond at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Dillon Avenue. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to award the bid for Northland Mall Detention to Martin & Company in the amount of \$2,022,213.45; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Manager Shumard indicated this project will reduce water run-off for properties downstream from the Mall. This pond will be visible from Lynn Boulevard. An aerator will be installed to keep the water from becoming stagnant and for aesthetics. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to refer to Plan Commission the development of a zoning ordinance in response to Illinois Public Act 101-0027, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act; seconded by Alderman Wise. Attorney Zollinger suggested discussion take place before the roll call vote to give direction to the Plan Commission.

Manager Shumard outlined concerns for the Council to discuss: Zoning and Regulations, Licensing, Taxation, Personnel Policy, and State recommendations.

Alderman Martin asked if signage can be regulated. Zollinger stated it could be regulated with a Special Use Permit.

Attorney Zollinger stated the City cannot ban recreational cannabis, although IML's position is that a municipality can ban sales in their community.

Alderman Wise would like a dispensary to be located in the west end of Sterling to bring more traffic to that area, possibly along Third or Fourth Street, west of Avenue G. Zollinger stated a commercial district can be determined where a Special Use Permit may be obtained. Manager Shumard advised the State will monitor the building and distribution, as well as security on both ends.

Attorney Zollinger stated the City can determine if they want on-site consumption. Otherwise, public consumption is not permitted.

Superintendent Schmidt stated that staff believes it is best to control with a Special Use Permit to monitor signage, hours, and location. Zollinger stated that is the best route for the City's ability to place boundaries.

Chief Morgan has no preference on zoning districts.

Alderman Stauter verified that the building would be inspected by Code Enforcement, Police, and Fire. Zollinger stated the City would inspect, as well as the state.

Mayor Lee would like the dispensary in a visible community location.

Alderman Elston asked how it can be determined if someone is driving under the influence, or if they are impaired. Chief Morgan stated blood draws or urine tests can be performed.

Manager Shumard stated the City may impose up to a 3% occupation tax in increments of .25%. It was consensus to impose the full 3%. Attorney Zollinger stated the tax would need to be imposed by September 1 to get taxes from the first quarter of 2020.

Manager Shumard asked how personnel policies should be handled. Zollinger stated a zero tolerance can be established. Mayor Lee asked for input from department heads before a zero tolerance was established.

Voting on motion to refer to Plan Commission for zoning in a commercial district with a Special Use Permit: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Morgan suggested a “Do Not Knock” registry be started. The registry would allow Police to issue a citation to solicitors if they knock on those doors.

Superintendent Schmidt encouraged everyone to complete the survey pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan update.

Alderman Elston noted summer is coming to a close with the last of the movies and concerts.

Mayor Lee acknowledged the passing of Mitsy Abell, a Rock Falls Police Officer. Lee also asked for prayers for Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas with recent mass shootings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk