

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 19, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

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

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) Minutes of August 5, 2019

B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$795,436.10

C) Resolution #R2019-08-18 to close streets for Fiesta Parade on Saturday, September 14, 2019

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

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-08-23 Establishing a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax within the City limits of Sterling**, in the amount of 3%; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Attorney Zollinger is waiting for the state to verify when this can take effect. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-08-24 Authorizing Acquisition of Real Property and Execution of Donation Agreement Relating to 711 Avenue C**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Superintendent Schmidt indicated \$13,000 donated with the property would cover demolition expenses. This house is situated on an undersized lot and will probably be sold to neighbors. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to award the bid to install a sanitary manhole and replace the sanitary main for the 200 block of Light Street Sanitary Sewer to Civil Constructors in the amount of \$74,437.00; seconded by Alderman Elston. Manager Shumard explained that Champs, Lisa's Brick House, and Kelly's get back-up in the

buildings from this sanitary sewer. The line currently has a break, tree roots, and several taps from previous buildings. Roof drains will also be removed from this sanitary sewer. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Authorize the City Manager to accept and sign the Services Agreement for Planning and Engineering Services related to renovations at Central Memorial (Grandon) Park; seconded by Alderman Elston. Manager Shumard explained the engineering will be completed for work in phases. For example, the electrical will be done first to get ground work done before above ground improvements. More parking will be added along Brink's Circle. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee asked for Council's permission to discuss the feeding of wild animals before the closed session. Council agreed.

Alderman Elston noted the proposed ordinance includes feral cats and dogs with wild animals. Superintendent Schmidt is concerned about the definition of feral cats because the state does license "cat colonies". Schmidt acknowledged this ordinance would enable Code Enforcement to fine people that continue to feed wild animals, which may be a deterrent.

Attorney Zollinger stated this ordinance does not differentiate between the sporadic and regular behaviors of feeding animals, feeding the ducks versus dumping food on the porch.

Superintendent Schmidt stated this ordinance can result in a fine but does not eliminate the wild animals. Alderman Martin asked if the City could be liable to remove animals. Zollinger stated the ordinance does not provide for removal of animals.

Manager Shumard announced a Plan Commission meeting for Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm to discuss zoning regulations for recreational cannabis. The riverfront access path will be started again, moving from the center to the east. There will be temporary access to Wallace Street for accessibility. A trailer with cameras will be moved in for security. The new e-newsletter is available. Shumard stated there may be a special Council meeting on Monday, August 26.

Alderman Martin extended congratulations to former Mayor Amy Viering on her recent marriage.

Alderman Elston was able to participate in three locations on National Night Out. She was happy to see community participation. Elston announced the last Pop-Up Market will be Thursday, August 29.

Alderman Stauter asked who paints the downtown parking stalls. He was told someone was issued a ticket for not being within the lines and she said the lines were not very visible. Manager Shumard stated Public Works will be repainting the parking stalls in the downtown.

Mayor Lee remembered Mary Arnold on her passing. Her husband, Bill Arnold, served the Library Board and recruited Skip to City service.

Alderman Elston made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:15 pm to discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office, covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(3); seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the regular Council meeting at 8:12 pm; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Open meeting reconvened.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk