

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 21, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, 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.

Tim Watkins with Project First Rate distributed information and gave a broad sketch of their program. Project First Rate provides Union Labor with Apprenticeship Programs; thereby earning while they are learning. Union construction workers are well trained and get the job done right. They invest in safety training and work hard to give back to their communities. Mayor Lee recommended that Watkins contact Sauk Valley Community College about partnering with them to strengthen area workforces.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of September 8, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$619,396.31
- C) Plan Commission Minutes of July 16, 2015

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim October 4 – 10, 2015 as Fire Prevention Week; seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Deputy Chief Dettman stated that every day is Fire Prevention Awareness. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Mayor Lee reminded Aldermen that if they would like updates on questions of staff to get those to Clerk Rombouts for submission on the agenda.

Superintendent Schrader introduced two of the three new Public Works employees: Blake Ebersole and Brock Henning.

Alderman Martin thanked Superintendent Schrader for the quick response to his request.

Manager Shumard reported that he and Mayor Lee met with Commonwealth Edison about the utility tax and are waiting for more information. Thursday is a meeting about the 911 Consolidation. Also Thursday is the public hearing on the zoning code before the Plan Commission. Shumard explained that bids were opened for the roadway improvements on Sixth and Eighth Avenues, but bids were very high. Shumard is working with the engineers to reduce expenses.

Alderman Martin thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend Illinois Municipal League although bad news abounded from the state. Alderman Martin also distributed work request forms that were used in the past for requests to staff.

Mayor Lee asked Manager Shumard where we are with the Strategic Plan. Manager Shumard stated he left a message for Peter but has not heard back from him.

Alderman Conklin thanked Public Works crews for their work. Conklin feels that television sets left by the curb should be the responsibility of the property owner.

Mayor Lee asked the status of the former drug house with the downed trees. Chief Potthoff stated we are waiting for paperwork to get here and it will be the City's for demolition.

Alderman Elston thanked the Fire Department for the ride on the fire truck during the Fiesta Parade.

Alderman Stauter stated that he enjoyed attending the Illinois Municipal League and thanked the Council for providing the opportunity.

Alderman Schuchard asked about the sinkhole on Eighth Avenue by the railroad tracks. Superintendent Schrader stated that the water runs down Eighth Avenue from two directions and that has caused the sinkhole.

Alderman Martin stated that he is not against educational sessions at the Council meetings but would like advance warning. Mayor Lee stated that they had not determined if it will be the first or second meeting in October.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk