

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual special meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 9, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman John Stauter.

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, City Clerk Teri Sathoff, Sterling Main Street Director Janna Groharing, Sterling Main Street Board members, Anna Garcia, Robin Duncan, Brian Grummert, Joe Strabala-Bright and Sheila Martinez. Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce Director Kris Noble, Chamber Board members Brian Hawkins, Lance Buser and Pam Fluck. City Planner Dustin Wolff and Planner Mike Sauer both from Meade and Hunt.

Mayor Lee welcomed the directors and board members from the Sterling Main Street and Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce.

City Manager Shumard asked the City Planners to facilitate a discussion between the City Council and the boards to put together a priority list for developing the riverfront. City Manager Shumard stated he wants to make sure the groups are all focused on the same goals. He said we have done a good job of generating ideas for the riverfront and downtown area, we now need to prioritize these ideas.

Mark Sauer with Mead and Hunt provided a power point presentation that highlighted the background of the riverfront and the progress that has been made to date. He presented a list of projects and goals and how we need to proceed from here. The Planners need to know the priorities for the future of the downtown and riverfront to prepare cost estimates and identify funding sources for each of the projects.

The list of potential projects includes:

- The Lawrence Brothers Complex.
- Stanley Manufacturing Complex.
- Riverfront amenities.
- Stanley Manufacturing office.
- Bicycle and pedestrian crossings.
- Residential development in the transition area.
- Residential development on the riverfront.
- East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street upgrades.

- Public art and beautification.
- Way findings and streetscapes.
- Vehicle crossings at grade.
- Decoupling of one-way streets.
- Railroad quiet zones.

Director of Sterling Main Street, Janna Groharing felt that riverfront amenities would be most impactful. City Manager Shumard advised that the stipulations of the EPA grant requires the prairie grass to remain for another six years. However the North West area, where the Best Cob building stood, can be developed. Alderman Johnson and Director Kris Noble would like the city to ask the EPA to allow some development in the area of the prairie grass. Anna Garcia suggested the group focus on the projects that can be done at this time. Joe Strabala-Bright would like to ensure that the groups become one and work together.

Kris Noble stated that Chamber would like to see more action and less discussion on these issues. The board would like to see their input used and forward movement. City Manager Shumard stated that is the purpose of this meeting, we need to have items to be able to act on, we need to prioritize the projects to be able to move forward. Shumard said that by the spring of 2021 we will have a list of projects with priorities that are the same for everyone involved.

City Planner Dustin Wolff said the next steps will be for Mead and Hunt to review and confirm the final list, in December they will apply budgetary estimates to those projects.

Kris Noble gave an update on the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. Noble advised the group that SVAC continues to be a COVID-19 resource for the community, the Chamber can assist with grants and personal protective equipment. The Chamber is currently working with Sauk Valley Community College and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce on a quarterly regional roundtable for manufacturing. The Chamber is also working with the Main Street on Sights and Sounds. In December, the Board will look at 2021 priorities. Mayor Lee asked Noble about the Chamber lobbying for aid during COVID-19. Noble advised that the Chamber does work with the federal and state legislators.

Janna Groharing gave an update on the Sterling Main Street, she stated that Sterling Today has provided grant money to be distributed through the Main Street to businesses that are compliant with the COVID-19 guidelines. They received nine applications and it appears that seven of them qualify for the grant money. Groharing thanked the City for

the Marketplace, she stated the Marketplace has been a godsend for the vendors of The Farmer's Market.

Mayor Lee thanked the directors, board members for their participation he also thanked the City Planners from Mead and Hunt for their presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk