

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Linda Marley, Joe Martin, Lou Sotelo, and Amy Viering. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Management Intern Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Code Enforcement Officer Amanda Schmidt, Director of Financial Services Cindy Von Holten, Interim Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Matt Laughlin, Fire Union President, reminded everyone of the 10th anniversary of September 11. Sterling firefighters do not have Class A uniforms to wear for such ceremonies. Looking ahead on the agenda, Laughlin commented on the City spending money for a study instead of funding items such as Class A uniforms, SCBAs (self contained breathing apparatus), or turn-out gear. The SCBAs and turnout gear are near expiration. Chief Cook explained that SCBAs have been budgeted for this year and will be purchased. Class A uniforms could cost between \$150 and \$200 per person. Chief Cook reported they are working on a grant to purchase turn-out gear.

Chief Potthoff responded that the Police Department does not have Class A uniforms.

Alderman Viering asked if these Class A uniforms could be purchased with the Foreign Fire Funds. Manager Shumard reminded the Council that the Foreign Fire Board purchased a new utility vehicle for the Fire Department this year.

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

- 1) City Council Minutes of August 15, 2011
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$941,356.04
- 3) Petition to allow the Knights of Columbus to solicit donations for Tootsie Roll candy on Friday, September 16 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday, September 17 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the intersection of Second Avenue/Second Street
- 4) Petition to allow Toys for Tots to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser on Saturday, November 12 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the intersections of Second Street/Second Avenue, First Avenue/Third Street and Fifth Street/Locust
- 5) Petition to allow Sterling High School to hold their annual Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 16 at 3:30 pm

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to authorize continued medical benefits for Officer Joseph Salvatori; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard explained that PSEBA (Public Safety Employee Benefit Act) provides for a police officer to receive insurance benefits for injuries in the line of duty. With a dispute between the City and Salvatori regarding in the line of duty or on duty, an agreement has been reached with Officer Salvatori to extend insurance benefits for four years to avoid litigation. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made a motion to pass the proclamation declaring September 12 – 16, 2011, as Chamber of Commerce Week in Sterling, Illinois; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Partial Pay Request #4 for the West Third Street Reconstruction Project to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$274,913.10; seconded by Alderman Marley. Manager Shumard reported pavement markings would be completed after the concrete had 30 days to cure. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Marley made a motion to approve the Final Pay Request for the 2011 Street Project Contract #1 to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$7,938.20; seconded by Alderman Viering. Manager Shumard explained the difference between the bid award and actual work is that quantities were more than estimated but quantity prices were consistent with the bid. Alderman Cox asked why the final payment was being approved when a punch list still existed. Alderman Viering made a motion to amend the motion to release payment upon completion of the punch list; seconded by Alderman Marley. Voting on the amendment: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Voting on the amended motion to approve Final Pay Request and release upon completion of the punch list: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the final plat of the Re-Subdivision of Lots 20 and 21 in Meadowlands Business Park; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Cox noted that the plat reflects the Lots as 120 and 121. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2011-09-15, Amending the zoning classification of property commonly known as 409 Avenue L to a combined zoning classification of B-2-1 (Special Use) and B-3 (Special Use)**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard explained the approved plat was presented to the Council before the meeting. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to accept the proposal from Matrix Consulting Group to conduct a Consolidation, Merger or Contract Fire and EMS Service Feasibility Analysis in the amount of \$38,500, including travel expenses; seconded by Alderman Sotelo.

Manager Shumard stated that the savings we have shown by sharing Interim Chief Gary Cook's wages will cover the additional expenses from the study that were not budgeted. Alderman Cox would feel better if Rock Falls was interested in the study. Manager Shumard believes that Sterling must take a leadership role. Manager Shumard agrees that it would be better if Rock Falls was on board but municipalities will need to find ways to save money now and be financially responsible.

Alderman Elston asked when the Interim Chief's term ends. Manager Shumard reported the end of the year. Manager Shumard hopes the study will be completed by the end of the year. He reported that revenue streams are not rising and money will continue to be an issue.

Alderman Martin expressed concern that Rock Falls would view this study like the 911 consolidation study and claim that the results were twisted to meet Sterling's desires. Mayor Lee stated this is a multi-faceted study.

Laughlin wanted to know why the firefighters are being targeted. Mayor Lee stated this is the time to look into it because of Interim Chief Cook being shared with Rock Falls and the mutual aid that already exists. Manager Shumard reminded everyone that emergency dispatch has been reviewed in the past five years, adjudication for Code Enforcement is working, Waste Water Treatment combination was reviewed but the timing was off. Now is the time to look at fire consolidation with the time sharing of Interim Chief Cook.

Laughlin believes the study should be objective. Jobs can be lost through consolidation. An interagency agreement does not mean that Rock Falls will play. Consolidation could cost rural tax payers more money because costs would be spread across the board. Laughlin believes they could require more firefighters because NFPA standards recommend four people to a truck.

Mayor Lee stated that there is no talk about lay-offs. We are not lowering services that we presently have. This is for information only.

Voting on the motion to accept the proposal from Matrix Consulting Group: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Marley, Martin, Sotelo and Viering. Nays – Alderman Cox. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard stated that he and Chief Potthoff would be in arbitration hearings on Thursday.

Mayor Lee reminded everyone of the Liquor Commission meeting with liquor license holders on Wednesday at 9:00 am.

Mayor Lee recognized the 10th anniversary of September 11, the victims lost, and people who lost their lives saving others.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk