

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a special meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 22, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Lee asked for a moment of silence remembering the life of Jim Burke, former Mayor of Dixon.

There were no communications from Visitors.

Alderman Elston made a motion to grant a permanent easement to Sterling Park District and Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Easement Agreement to construct a pedestrian path from Challand School to Franklin School; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Manager Shumard is unsure of the Park District's time line for construction.

At 6:35 pm, Manager Shumard began budget discussions.

- IMRF – continuing to draw down from excess funds
- Social Security –healthy fund balance
- TIF Lincolnway-Lynn – Kohl's & Petsmart – simply an in and out account because Continental makes bond payments and receives the tax increment
- TIF CBD – this TIF will end in 2019
- TIF Rock River Redevelopment – after discussion, a consensus was reached to ask for a "Scope of Work" and limit work to \$250,000 for FY 2016-17
- TIF – CBD East – just starting this TIF
- Sewer – consensus was to go with Option 1 to raise sewer bills approximately \$2.00 in light of other utility taxes and water increases. This budget year contains dredging the lagoon which will decrease some of the reserve that is being saved for a new plant.
- Solid Waste – raise from \$15.60 to \$16.06 in keeping with the contract.
- Storm Water Projects – no budget, just a reminder that work needs to be done
- Health Insurance – 15% increase

- NSP2 Grant – Mike Wolber reported this grant is complete.
- AG – NFS (Attorney General - National Foreclosure Settlement) – moving along with \$258,057 spent
- BRP (Blight Reduction Program) – awarded more than requested and is underway
- IGIG (Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant) – on hold with state funding

Manager Shumard stated there are four funds left to discuss: Capital, Band, Library, and Mud to Parks Grant. These can be discussed after the next regular meeting on March 7. The budget will be on display by March 25.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk