

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 20, 2023. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Christine Wilen, Josh Johnson, Joseph Martin Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw (zoom), and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll

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

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Sterling and Sterling Steel Company, LLC.; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to award the Bid to Twin City Construction for Reconstruction of Tori Pines in the amount of \$475,777.77; Seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Fehr Graham to conduct a Railroad Underpass Feasibility Study; Seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Wise asked if the funding would come out of the money that was set aside for Gorman and Company, yes it will. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to award the contract for concrete for City curb and sidewalks to the low bidder, Rock River Ready Mix; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Resolution No. R2023-03-08 Transferring Jurisdiction and Control of Real Property to the Industrial Development Commission; Seconded by Alderman

Ekquist. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Engineering Agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for Engineering Services for Light Street; seconded by Alderman Wise. The area of light street has had drainage issues. The parking lot behind 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Jewelers is owned by Sterling Today; the building was removed by them years ago. Sterling Today would like to sell it to the City for \$115,000. Alderman Wise asked about the structural integrity of the Little Chocolatier Building, a structural engineer stated the building is sound. There are some cosmetic issues with the façade. Alderman Ekquist asked if the lot would be 3-hour parking or if it would be permit parking. It would more than likely become 3-hour parking as there is not enough parking for the businesses in that area. This is the amount of money they have in the lot. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported the CDAP letters have been printed and will be put in the mail tomorrow. There were sixteen properties that qualified. The end of May was set as the deadline. The department is continuing to work on a survey of other municipalities that have rental inspection programs.

Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw reported his department has been working on removing storm debris from the area and repairing the fence that was damaged. They are working on their monthly maintenance program at the plant. The truck that was ordered in August is now in and the plow that was ordered should be in soon.

Fire Chief Dettman reported there is currently a pump operating class at the main station put on by the University of Illinois. One firefighter attended a technical rescue class and one firefighter attended a basic company officer class. Engine 5 is in Naperville to have the pump serviced when it returns Engine 3 will go in to have its pump serviced. The kitchen at the main station has been completed. David Northcutt was appointed Deputy Chief last week.

Police Chief Chavira reported that of the two officers that were hired last week one chose to decline the position, the other will be starting Wednesday. Chavira also reported two officers will be leaving, one to spend time with her growing family and the other to pursue a career in the private sector.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported the crews are working on potholes, the weather has created issues for them. There are crews working on alleys, they are adding rock

where needed. They have dredged ditches where there are drainage issues. They have also cleaned ditches removing twenty bags of trash.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reported the election will be April 4, there is still time to register to vote. For someone that is not registered they will need to do so at the courthouse in Morrison, two forms of identification are required and they will have to vote at the time of registration. The City has three candidates running for the position of mayor, the four ward candidates are running unopposed. The candidate forum will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> in the Council Chambers, this event is sponsored by the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. The next riverfront meeting will be held Wednesday at 1:00pm in the community room on the second floor.

Alderman Martin thanked everyone for the support and all of the acts of kindness. Martin stated he has been blessed with more friends than he realized he had. Martin also thanked his wife Mary who has been by his side the entire time. Martin stated he finished his radiation today and will have his final chemotherapy treatment will be Tuesday. Alderman Martin asked if there have been issues with Republic Services. City Manager Shumard stated we have had several issues with pick ups being missed as well as call center issues. A meeting will be scheduled with Republic Services. Alderman Martin stated his trash has been missed a few times recently.

Alderman Elston asked when yard waste pick up will start, Schrader stated it will start April 3.

At 7:05 Mayor Lee turned the meeting over to City Manager Shumard to for the budget study session.

City Manager Shumard reviewed the following funds:

### **Revenues**

- The Utility Tax was 23.7% over what was budgeted.
- State Income Tax was 16.3% over what was budgeted. Budgeting 4% less based on IML prediction.
- State Replacement Tax was 38.7% over what was budgeted. IML is predicting a decrease we are budgeting 29% less than amended budget.
- Sales Tax was 0.8% under budget. Budgeting for a \$50,000 increase.
- Other Sales Tax was 27% over what was budgeted. Budgeting for a slight decrease.

## Expenses

- **Non-Departmental**

There is an increase to cover sales tax rebate agreements with Kunes and Highlands. There was an increase in transfer to the Capital fund due to the State revenues being up.

- **Plan Commission**

Amended budget is up 65% due to planning support for the riverfront. The FY 23-24 budget is lower than the amended but 33% higher than previous year to continue supporting the Riverfront Commission.

- **Fire/Police Commission**

No changes. Costs are high due to frequent testing and hiring caused by frequent turnover.

- **General Fund Mayor and Council**

No changes. The new equipment for the Council chambers is still on backorder, it may be in the amended budget or the new budget depending on when the equipment is received.

- **City Clerk**

Employee reclassification as well as contractual increase to Laserfische system. This system is being used by Clerk's office as well as the Building Department.

- **Administration**

No changes.

- **IT**

Adding a key duplicator for the facilities.

- **Fire Administration**

Amended budget is down 4.2% due to partial vacancy in the Chiefs office

- **Fire Services**

Amended budget is up 5.9% due to overtime and prolonged medical absences. There is

an increase of 5.3% for FY 22-23. Money is being set aside for a memorial for Garrett Ramos.

- **Fire Prevention**

No changes.

- **Police Administration**

No changes.

- **Police Services**

Amended budget is down 8.5% due to turnover and wages.

- **Police Investigative**

Amended budget is down 5.9%.

- **Police Support**

Amended budget is up 1.0% due to unbudgeted speed trailer. FY 23-24 budget is 5.6% higher, they are requesting an additional employee.

- **Police/Blackhawk**

This is an in and out account.

- **Public Works Admin**

Amended budget is down 6.6% due to travel and training that was not used. There is an increase of 1.1% for FY 22-23.

- **Public Works Street Maintenance**

Amended budget is down 6.9% due to employee turnover and reduced snow removal costs. There is a decrease of 7.4% for FY 22-23, street lighting is down 83% with LED conversion.

- **Public Works Traffic Maintenance**

Amended budget is up 14.7%. due to an \$8,100 vehicle repair. There is a decrease of 18.9% for FY 22-23, no equipment request.

- **Public Works Park Maintenance**

Amended budget is down 49.9%. The Platt Park pavilion has been moved to capital, the Wallace Park soccer quotes are still being received.

- **Building and Zoning**

Amended budget is down 3.9%. There is an increase of 0.8% for FY 22-23, this is due to the elimination of the vehicle allowance offset to the wage increases.

- **City Shop**

Amended budget is up 29%, the new mechanic needed tools. The previous mechanic used his own tools. There is an increase of 13.7% for FY 22-23 due to specialty tools that will need to be purchased.

### **Capital Fund**

#### **Projects include:**

- The Riverfront engineering (RR underpass, RR quiet zone, park design).
- Road engineering (grind and overlay, Tori Pines).
- Public Works Phase 2.
- Coliseum tuck pointing.
- Coliseum exterior stairs.
- Garage doors Public Works South building.
- National Facility (repairs and maintenance as needed).
- National Roof.
- Code Enforcement Truck.
- Dump Truck.
- Flat bed equipment trailer.
- Riverfront Phase 1.
- Central Park upgrades.
- Calcium prewetting system for snow removal.
- Road projects.
- C2 Logix Route Optimization.
- Fuel pump card reader.
- Wallace Park Soccer.
- Wallace Park security system.
- Platt Park Pavilion
- Landfill bay relocation.
- Strategic plan projects.

### **IMRF**

IMRF Fund - this is the retirement fund for the employees that are not sworn police officers or sworn firefighters. IMRF submits a new rate to the City every calendar year, the 2023 rate is

2.29%. This fund has been overfunded for quite a few years, we continue to draw the balance down.

**Social Security**

Social Security Fund – Revenues are up 3.3% and expenses are down 1.7%. There is a surplus in this fund, running a deficit to draw this balance down.

**Library Fund**

Library – Amended revenues are up 27.7% due to a grant. Expenses are up 7.3% due to elevator repairs.

March 24<sup>th</sup> the budget will be displayed for ten days, April 3 will be the budget hearing, April 17 will be the adoption of the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk