

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday March 21, 2022. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, 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 (Zoom), Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Owen Harrell, 805 Avenue D Sterling, thanked the City Council for creating a riverfront commission. Harrell stated that the riverfront is something that future generations will benefit from.

Skip Dettman, 2301 Freeport Road Sterling, thanked the Council as well for the riverfront commission.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes.
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll.
- C. Resolution R2022-03-05 to Close Fourth Street for Sterling Municipal Band Concerts.
- D. Petition from Public Square Rosary to waive rental fees for Grandon Civic Center on 10/15/2022.
- E. St. Mary's Procession of the Cross.

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

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointments and re-appointments to Boards and Commissions; seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve the Master Developer Agreement between Gorman & Company and the City of Sterling for Riverfront; Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Ron Clewer with Gorman & Company was present. Mr. Clewer stated the work that has been done to date will be respected, the work that will be done now will build on that and move forward. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Authorize the Creation of a Riverfront Commission; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Engineering Agreement with Strand Engineering for Griswold Avenue & Woodburn Avenue Road & Drainage; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Quad City Custom Signs proposal for entryway signage at Ave G & 3rd Street; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Rob Lillicrap with Quad City Custom Sign was in attendance. Mr. Lillicrap advised the council that the original quote had a typo in the cost. The cost only reflected the main sign and one pillar it did not include all 3 pillars. The original sign proposal was for \$48,010. To add the 2 pillars that would increase the bid by \$15,864 for a total of \$63,874. Mr. Lillicrap stated that the stone could be replaced with a synthetic faux stone saving \$16,500.

After a lengthy discussion about tabling the project, eliminating the project, or amending the project, Alderman Ekquist Amended her motion to approve Quad City Custom Signs proposal for entryway signage at Ave G & 3rd Street with the synthetic faux stone for all four pieces in the amount of \$47,081; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and Approve Quote from JMI Masonry for Masonry Work at Central Memorial Park in the amount of \$149,551; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and Approve Quotes for Structural Steel fabrication and installation at Central Memorial Park to RMI Steel Corporation for fabrication in the amount of \$25,580 and Industrial Steel Erectors for installation in the amount \$20,960; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and Approve Low Quote for Paint & Epoxy at Central Memorial Park to Kuhlemier Painting in the amount of \$20,800; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and Approve the Executive Plastering Quote for Stucco and EIFS at Central Memorial Park in the amount of \$31,525.00; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-03-12 Amending Chapter 10, Article I to provide modifications or provisions related to amusements and entertainments; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to Set Public Hearing for Budget at 6:30 pm meeting on Monday, April 4; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported that the annual clean and green will resume this year, the dates will be May 13 and 14. Janna Groharing from Sterling Main Street reported that the downtown City cleanup will be April 23rd, the week prior to the car show.

Alderman Ekquist stated she and Janna Groharing met with Robert Valdez, Mr. Valdez is the muralist that painted the Aelante Mural. Mr. Valdez inspected the mural for damage and will be sending an estimate for repairs. Alderman Ekquist is hopeful that the mural can be restored in time for the Fiesta celebration.

Mayor Lee said there was a preconstruction meeting with Surf Broadband. Mayor Lee said they are quite easy to work with and he is looking forward to the progress. Mayor Lee reminded everyone that yard waste pickup will resume April 4th. Mayor Lee stated that they had a meeting with Republic Services regarding education for recycling. Yard waste bins will be available for purchase from Republic Services for \$60 if homeowners would like to buy one.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm to the budget study session.

General Fund

Revenues

Sales Tax – sales tax is up 20%, we are unsure if this is part of the recovery and how much inflation will affect it. We have budgeted a 1% increase.

Other Sales Tax – This is comprised of video gaming, use taxes and shared cannabis tax is up, we budgeted for a small amount of growth next year.

Income Tax – This is up 40% of what was budgeted. We are budgeting for no change.

State Replacement Tax - The City relies on the IML for this, it is up 270% budgeting for a slight increase.

Revenues are up over 20%, this is due to budgeting with COVID restrictions in mind.

Expenses

- **Non-Departmental**

The transfer will be increased to pay off the negative balance in the Coliseum fund, pay for the ceiling repairs in the council chambers, additional lighting for back parking lot for security reasons, pay for building improvements that have been put on hold since 2010 such as the fitness area.

- **Fire/Police Commission**

No changes.

- **Plan Commission**

Amended budget is down 44%, the comprehensive plan was completed as well as the annexations. There is a decrease of 37% for FY 22-23.

- **General Fund Mayor and Council**

There is an increase for the strategic planning that was conducted earlier this month. There will be new audio video equipment in the Council Chambers. Planning a revitalize or die workshop.

- **City Clerk**
No Changes.
- **Administration**
Amended budget is up 6.3%. There is a budget decrease of 5.4% for FY 22-23.
- **IT**
Amended budget is up 1.1% due to equipment. There is a budget Increase of 13% for FY 22-23, replacing the VOIP phone system.
- **Fire Administration**
Amended budget is down 9.1% due to partial vacancy in the Deputy Chiefs office. There is an increase of 37% for FY 22-23, no longer cost sharing the Chief's position with the City of Rock Falls.
- **Fire Services**
Amended budget is up 14.9% due to overtime and prolonged medical absences. There was an emergency HVAC replacement for the main station. office. There is an increase of 14% for FY 22-23, kitchen replacement, wage increases, and equipment increases.
- **Fire Prevention**
Amended budget is up 10.7% due to the position of Deputy Chief being filled. There is no change for FY 22-23.
- **Police Administration**
Amended budget is up 2.7% due to wages. There is an increase of 5.7% for FY 22-23.
- **Police Services**
Amended budget is down 4% due to turnover and wages. There is an increase of 7.6% for FY 22-23, radio system replacement.
- **Police Investigative**
Amended budget is down 8.1% due to wages. There is no change for FY 22-23.
- **Police Support**
Amended budget is up 3.2% due to wages and equipment, an incinerator for

drug burning. There is an increase of 2.5% for FY 22-23, assuming there is no change in the agreement, there has been little progress.

- **Police/Blackhawk**

This is an in and out account.

- **Public Works Admin**

Amended budget is up 5.7% due to wage adjustments. There is an increase of 6.8% for FY 22-23, CDL training requirements and an increase in wages.

- **Public Works Street Maintenance**

Amended budget is up 7% due to labor contract and equipment. There is an increase of 11.9% for FY 22-23, Contract wages as well as mower.

- **Public Works Traffic Maintenance**

Amended budget is down 2.9%. There is an increase of 18.5% for FY 22-23, new message board trailer, this will be in addition to the one used by the police department.

- **Public Works Park Maintenance**

Amended budget is down 3.8%. There is an increase of 66.4% for FY 22-23, Platt Park Pavilion, soccer field at Wallace park.

- **Building and Zoning**

Amended budget is down 3.4%. There is an increase of 4.9% for FY 22-23, this is due to the increase in minimum wage for the summer help.

- **City Shop**

Amended budget is up 10.1%. There is an increase of 4.3% for FY 22-23.

Capital Fund

Projects include:

- The riverfront lighting - the bid has been delayed for a few weeks due the need to clarify some specs.
- The upgrades to Central Park.
- Touch up work to the Lawrence building.
- The roof at National Manufacturing – this is currently on hold; the developer may have opportunities.

- Tuck pointing for the Coliseum.
- Wallace Street construction.
- Public Works expansion.
- GPS mapping for an efficient snow route.
- Excavator, dump truck and skid loader.
- Flooring for Fire Department and Public Works.

City Manager Shumard stated the budget will be on display for 10 days starting on Friday March 25th. The Public Hearing will be on April 4th at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk