

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 3, 2023. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joseph Martin Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: Christine Wilen.

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, Deputy Police Chief E. Pat Bartel, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw, 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.
- C. Award the Bid to Twin City Construction for Reconstruction of Tori Pines in the amount of \$475,777.77 for Phase I and II.
- D. Proclamation recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

Mayor Lee read the Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and presented it to Jenna from the YWCA.

Deputy Chief Bartel introduced officer Justin Hackbarth. Officer Hackbarth was given the oath of office by City Clerk Sathoff.

At 6:39 pm Mayor Lee opened the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. There were no public comments regarding the budget nor were the comments from the Council or the City Staff. Mayor Lee closed the Public Hearing at 6:39 pm.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve the Reimbursement Agreement for Quiet Zone Services; Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Approve MFT General Maintenance Bids; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

City Manager Shumard opened the discussion for a residential sewer lateral service line repair program. This program was previously discussed as a way to assist homeowners with unforeseen costs due to breaks in privately owned sewer lateral lines which connect homes to the City's sanitary sewer system.

In the last 5 years, over 200 permits were issued for sewer lateral repairs. The total value of the repairs listed on the permits totaled \$618,193, an average of \$123,639 per year. The average repair was \$3,076 with the highest repair at \$13,900.

The City investigated two private companies offering repair programs. The costs of the private programs were \$9 to \$12 per month. They included caps in expenditures and required use of certain plumbers that were not necessarily local. Staff also researched private insurance options. Rates were \$3 to \$5.50 per month, but included higher deductibles and in some cases, even lower caps for reimbursement.

Staff is developing a program in-house that offers a more cost-effective solution for residential property owners that offers higher coverage for cost for a lower monthly cost.

Alderman Ekquist asked how the sewer program would be promoted, Alderman Johnson asked if there could be an inspection for anyone wanting to sign up for the program.

Attorney Zollinger asked the Council to consider a cap on the cost for the repairs. Sterling Resident, Shirley Sharp asked if tenants would be required to carry the insurance. This is something that will have to be looked into.

Deputy Chief Bartel reported that April is Autism Awareness month, officers will be wearing the Autism patch.

Chief Dettman stated that staff completed a pump operations class that was held at the fire department. All staff is currently certified.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported the crews are almost caught up on all the potholes. All gravel alleys have been covered, Schrader stated if something has been missed please call Public Works and they will address it. There were a few trees that came down with the heavy snow, those have been cleaned up. The street sweeper has been out a few times and will continue to go out.

Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw stated they had minimal storm damage, there was a minimal spike in the inflow from the storm.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten reminded everyone that the budget is on display at the Library as well as at the front counter in City Hall.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported their department has received two calls from residents in regards to the CDAP grant. More information will be sent to these residents. Alderman Martin asked if there was progress on filling the upcoming vacancy in Code Enforcement, Schmidt stated interviews will be scheduled in the next week.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reminded everyone of the election tomorrow, April 4, the polls are open 6:00am to 7:00pm.

City Manager stated the fire negotiations are moving along nicely, hopefully the contract will be available for approval at the next Council meeting. The K-Mart groundbreaking is Tuesday at 3:00pm. The riverfront open house will be Wednesday at 5:00pm at Champs Banquet facility. Shumard reported there will be storms again on Tuesday, we were fortunate with the last storm there was minimal damage.

Shumard stated he sent out an email about requesting additional assistance for Main Street. They need an events coordinator.

Alderman Johnson asked if when the landlord inspection program would be on the agenda again. There is a current draft ordinance that will need to be amended. Alderman Johnson stated he would like to have that revisited soon.

Alderman Elston asked Janna Groharing for an update regarding the incubator buildings, Groharing stated four of the six tenants have been approved. They are hoping to turn the keys over to the tenants by early May. Elston thanked Amanda Schmidt and Attorney Zollinger for working on the residence on 16th Avenue. There is a tenant in there for the first time in fifteen years.

Alderman Wise thanked the Mayor for recognizing the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness month. Wise thanked the Police Department for recognizing Autism Awareness month as well. Wise stated that when his son was born, 33 years ago, 1 in 188 children were born on the spectrum. Today that number is 1 in 54, Wise asked everyone to be mindful of this and he thanked the people that work with people diagnosed with autism.

Mayor Lee reminded everyone to vote tomorrow and thanked those that have put their names on the ballot. Mayor Lee would like to remind everyone to be storm aware and to be mindful of

scammers that go door to door looking to make repairs. Please make sure all contractors are registered with the City.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk