

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:37 pm on Monday, May 1, 2023. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, 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, Superintendent of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

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. Proclamation declaring May 15th as Police Memorial Day and May 15 - 21, 2023 as Police Officers Week.
- D. Letter Carriers Food Drive Proclamation.
- E. Resolution 2023-05-13 to dispose of City owned obsolete and surplus equipment and abandoned and unclaimed property recovered by the Police Department.
- F. Request from Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce to waive fees to utilize Grandon Civic Center on September 16, 2023.
- G. Pay Request #7 (Final) to Martin and Company for 1st Avenue in the amount of \$50,000.

Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05-14 Honoring Charles "Skip" Lee for his Distinguished Service to the City of Sterling; Seconded by Alderman Wise. Mayor Merdian read the resolution into the record. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Police Chief Alex Chavira introduced Officer Anthony Adamson, Officer Adamson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, he was presented his badge by his wife Jenny.

Fire Chief Michael Dettman introduced the pinning of five firefighters.

Firefighter Austin Ewing was pinned by his wife Marilyn Ewing. He was promoted from Probationary Employee to Firefighter.

Firefighter Nathaniel Bitterman was pinned by his wife Ryleigh Bitterman. He was promoted from Probationary Employee to Firefighter.

Firefighter Nicholas Simpson was pinned by his wife Emily Simpson. He was promoted from Probationary Employee to Firefighter.

Firefighter Mike Liedberg was pinned by his wife Ashley Liedberg. He was promoted from Firefighter to Lieutenant.

Firefighter Adrian Avelar was pinned by his wife Stacey Avelar, He was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Engineering Agreement with Strand Engineering for technical services related to the Highland Park Subdivision; Seconded by Alderman Elston. City Manager Shumard stated this area has been problematic, there are three residences that do not have access to City water. Alderman Wise asked if the City could coordinate with Illinois American Water, Shumard stated the engineering includes IAW lines. Alderman Elston thanked staff and everyone that was involved in this. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Ekquist, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Chavira reported the police department is still accepting applications for the position of police officer, testing will be May 13, 2023. The Run for the Badge 5K will be held May 13, 2023, details are on the City Facebook page. Three officers from the recruitment and retention team went to Western Illinois University to recruit new officers, a lot of positive contacts were made. The annual report is attached to the agenda, if anyone has questions on it please contact him.

Chief Dettman reported three Ukrainian firefighters stopped at the main station to thank the City for the donation of the fire apparatus. Dettman reported one firefighter will be attending Company Officer fire ground training in the coming week.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reminded everyone about the Green and Clean that is scheduled May 12th and 13th. The concrete at Grandon is being completed. Crews planted 100 trees on Lynn Blvd. Alderman Wise asked when the test would be done on the fountain at Grandon, it will be done in the next few weeks.

Superintendent of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw reported one of the pumps is starting to show its age, it has not been working properly. The pump may have to be replaced as replacement parts are hard to get.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported that Rex Gaumer will be retiring, Code Enforcement Officer Rob Horn will be replacing Gaumer. Jason Williamson will be starting as Code Enforcement Officer in July. Williamson is a recently retired firefighter and has

knowledge of the code, he will be a good addition to the department. The summer help will return on the 15th of May.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten informed the Council that the financial reports are always on the agenda for the second meeting of the month. Von Holten advised the Council that if they have any questions or would like to see different or additional reports to please let her know.

City Attorney Tim Zollinger reminded Mayor Merdian and Alderman Joe Strabala-Bright to complete their Open Meetings Act training. Once the training is completed they will need to file their certificates with the Clerk's Office.

Alderman Martin welcomed Mayor Merdian and Alderman Strabala-Bright to the Council. Alderman Martin congratulated Mayor Merdian on being the first Latina Mayor.

Alderman Johnson welcomed Mayor Merdian and Alderman Strabala-Bright.

Alderman Strabala-Bright thanked everyone for welcoming him to the Council, he feels privileged to be here and he is looking forward to serving the citizens of Ward Two.

Alderman Elston stated she attended the CEO Trade Show and it was incredible. Elston reminded everyone about the Car show on May 7, and the Mail Carriers food drive on May 13. Alderman Elston thanked the City family for the love that was shown to her with the passing of her brother.

Alderman Ekquist thanked City Manager Shumard and Fire Chief Dettman for inviting her to be a part of welcoming the Ukrainian firefighters to the Fire Department.

Alderman Wise welcomed Mayor Merdian and Alderman Strabala-Bright. He also thanked City Manager Shumard and Fire Chief Dettman for inviting him to be a part of welcoming the Ukrainian firefighters to the Fire Department.

Mayor Merdian thanked the City staff for getting acclimated and she is looking forward to the next four years.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk