

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 3, 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, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer 1512 5th Avenue Sterling, spoke to the Council about the lack of sidewalks on LeFevre. Brackemeyer asked the Council about the pedestrian plan that was discussed in May of 2022. City Manager Shumard explained Wendler was hired to design the pedestrian plan, Wendler was bought out by Willett Hofmann and the engineer that was working on the plan suffered a severe medical condition. The engineer contacted the City last month and they will resume the project.

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 for National Night Out
- D. Ordinance 2023-07-11 MABAS Master Agreement between MABAS and Sterling Fire Department
- E. Ordinance 2023-07-12 MABAS Master Agreement between MABAS and CGH Medical Center/CGH Emergency Services
- F. Refer to the Plan Commission the Subdivision of Shandilyan from Whiteside County
- G. Refer to the Plan Commission for consideration of Sign Code Amendments

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

Mayor Merdian read the National Night Out Proclamation into the record.

Chief Chavira reported they are completing backgrounds on two candidates. They hope to have the new hires in place and ready to attend the August academy. Chavira also reported National Night Out will be on August 1st at Central Park. He extended an invitation to all City Council members as well as City Staff to attend and participate in the National Night Out event. August 3rd will be the “Stock the Squad” event in the south parking lot.

Chief Dettman reported there is a mural being painted on the north wall of the main station. This mural memorializes Captain Garrett Ramos. The floors at the main station are in the process of being epoxied. Dettman also reported there has been an upswing in the amount of fire calls.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten reminded the Council a memo has been sent to them in regards to the training allowance and reimbursement procedures for the IML Conference in September.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reminded the Council members to contact her if they are interested in attending the IML Conference. She reminded everyone there will be no trash pickup on July 4th and Republic Services will be running one day behind schedule for the remainder of the week.

Attorney Zollinger reported that he and the building department are pursuing two more abandoned properties and they have an emergency hearing on another property.

Alderman Martin requested the detours for the work being performed at Science Ridge and Route 40 be sent to the Council as soon as it is received from IDOT.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the Municipal Band Concert on Wednesday.

Alderman Wise requested Chief Chavira to explain the reason for the "9pm Routine" public service announcements on social media. Chief Chavira stated the public needs to be aware of the importance of locking up valuables and preventing crimes of opportunity.

Mayor Merdian reported she had an impromptu meeting with Senator Durbin and Representative Sorenson. They wanted to speak with the Hispanic business leaders. She stated she hosted the "Girls on the Go" from the YMCA at City Hall. They were a great group of young ladies.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk