

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 2, 2023. Roll call. Present: Alderperson Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, Josh Johnson, Joseph Martin, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Shirley Sharp, 1401 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street Sterling, addressed the Council. Mrs. Sharp requested clarification in regards to Ordinance 2023-09-21 Amending Provisions of the Liquor Code to Clarify Entities Eligible for Permit on Public Property that was approved at the September 18, 2023 Council meeting. Sharp was concerned there was an ulterior motive to allow the sale of alcohol at the Municipal Band concerts. Sharp was advised the ordinance previously allowed a charitable organization that have been in existence for five years to apply for a permit to sell alcohol on public property. The amendment allows a charitable organization that has been in existence for five years as well as an organization with 501(c)(3) status to apply for a permit to sell alcohol on public property. By obtaining 501(c)(3) status entities show the City the same level of commitment. Alderman Martin stated the opportunity for a charitable organization to sell at the Municipal Band concerts has always been there.

Sharp stated she has been coming to the Council meetings for 9 years, she has witnessed a lot of money being spent inappropriately and she has requested the City Manager to start speaking up on multiple occasions. Sharp was extremely upset that the cul-de-sac that she has requested to be repaired for several years was finally repaired once she and her husband moved. Sharp stated she is disappointed that no one in the City had the nerve to tell her to her face that she was right and the City was wrong. Sharp stated she has better things to do with her Monday nights, this will be the last meeting she attends and she left the meeting.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C. Trick or Treat Hours
- D. Pay Request for Reconstruction of Tori Pines Subdivision to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$20,494.27

- E. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- F. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 8th through October 14th 2023.
- G. Authorization of EPA Loan Applicant's Authorized Representative
- H. Sauk Valley Marine Corp to hold a Bucket Brigade on October 14, 2023

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the April 30, 2023 audited financial statements and place them on file; Seconded by Alderperson Martin. Joel Hopkins with the independent auditing firm of Hopkins & Associates presented the audit. Hopkins stated that it was his opinion that the City of Sterling was in good financial standing. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to Waive Bid Process and Accept a Quote from Westwood Machine and Tool Co. in the amount of \$34,317.00 for Parts to Repair Screw pump number two; Seconded by Alderperson Wise. Alderperson Strabala-Bright asked Superintendent of Wastewater, Cory Bradshaw, to explain the reason for three companies for this agenda item and the next two agenda items. Bradshaw explained these are screw pumps that have been in operation for 45 years, they have a life expectancy of 25 years. By having Westwood Machine order the parts for pump number two it will save the City of Sterling \$10,000. For Screw pump number one the parts will be made by Lakeside and DPS will install the parts and make the repairs. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderperson Ekquist made a motion to Waive Bid Process and Accept a Quote from DPS Equipment Service in the amount of \$26,000 to Repair Screw Pump number one; Seconded by Alderperson Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to Waive Bid Process and Accept a Quote from Lakeside Equipment Corporation in the amount of \$59,435 for Parts to Repair a Screw Pump number one; Seconded by Alderperson Martin. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw reported his department continues to do maintenance and they have been making repairs to the lift stations.

Chief Alex Chavira reported testing for police officers was done on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, results for the testing is not in yet. Trunk or Treat will be held in the south parking lot from 4pm to 6pm on October 25th. Trick or Treat hours have been set county wide for October 31<sup>st</sup> 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Chief Dettman reported tower 4 remains out of service and engine 5 has an issue with the antifreeze lines.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported the final lift will be put on Tori Pines on Thursday after that the man holes and finishes will be done. IDOT reported the round-a-bout on Rt. 40 and Science Ridge Road is scheduled to open this week. They are waiting on signage to be delivered and installed. The benches and tables have been installed at Platt Park. Crews are also patching on Lynn Blvd.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten reported she had hard copies of the audit if the Council would like them.

Aldersperson Martin congratulated the Sterling Park District for a successful turnout for the pumpkin dash. Martin stated he and the Optimist Club volunteered to make hot dogs for the event, they served over 1,200 hot dogs.

Aldersperson Strabala-Bright stated he attended Sip into Fall and it was a nice event, he reminded everyone about Hops on the Rocks that will be coming up on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Strabala-Bright stated he was invited by CGH employees to listen to information they have about the union.

Aldersperson Elston thanked the Brad Schrader and Public Works crew for the work at Platt Park. Elston thanked the City for allowing her to attend the annual IML conference, she stated she learned a lot and is thankful we are non-partisan, it was eye opening to hear what larger cities have to endure. Elston asked about the private drive/road in the area of 5/3 bank, she has had residents complain about the shape the road is in. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated the road way is owned by the new bank that is being built and they do have it in the plans to rebuild the roadway.

Aldersperson Ekquist stated she too attended the CGH employees meeting. She reminded everyone about the trunk or treat held at the YMCA on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm.

Mayor Merdian reported she attend the CGH employees meeting and listened to what they had to say. She stated CGH will be holding their retreat this week and she will be in attendance for that as well. Mayor Merdian reminded everyone about the Trunk or

Treat that is put on by the Police Department, she stated it is always well attended and a great event.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk