

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 17, 2014. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Library Director Jennifer Slaney, Building and Electrical & Code Inspector Rex Gaumer, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dick Card, 2007 16th Avenue, asked why Fifth Avenue is a priority for street reconstruction. He also asked how the downtown theater is doing, why two of the rental units are boarded up, and what the loan status is on the theater. Manager Shumard explained that Fifth Avenue between LeFevre and Miller started as a curb and gutter project only. It was then determined that bus lanes needed to be reconstructed. The entire project will properly support the buses, change crosswalks and drainage, which should last 20 to 25 years. Shumard reported the rental units by the theater are in horrible condition. Because the remodeling is quite extensive, modifications need to be ADA compliant. When the units are brought into code compliance, there are interested parties in leasing them. Payments have been received on the theater.

Alderman Sotelo asked Manager Shumard to explain what other streets will be reconstructed this year. Manager Shumard stated that Woodburn, from 9th to 11th Streets, will cost approximately \$200,000 and Sixth Street, east of Lincoln School, will cost approximately \$500,000.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) City Council minutes of March 3, 2014
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,028,381.91
- C) Bid for demolition of 204 West Seventh Street to Burke Excavating in the amount of \$15,115.00
- D) Disposal of surplus equipment from Public Works, a 1995 Ford F250 pick-up truck with snow plow equipment

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass the Proclamation recognizing the Sterling High School Chess Team for their accomplishments; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None.

Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record. The Chess Team came forward to accept the proclamation and have a photo taken with the Mayor. Alderman Sotelo complimented Coach Joel Penne for the team's accomplishments and for offering an alternative sport for students.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to pass the Proclamation declaring support for the April Community Wide Read of "True Grit"; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Library Director Jennifer Slaney encouraged everyone to read the book and participate in the community events. Alderman Elston read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the proclamation for Mayors' Day of Recognition for National Service; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-03-05 Adopting Certain International Codes**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. This ordinance adopts the following codes with amendments:

- International Building Code/2012 edition
- International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings/2012 edition
- International Fire Prevention Code/2102 edition
- International Mechanical Code/2012 edition
- International Fuel Gas Code/2012 edition
- International Energy Conservation Code/2012 edition
- International Property Maintenance Code/2012 edition
- National Electric Code/2011 edition

Inspector Gaumer stated that the City tries to stay within two cycle years of the code updates. City staff is currently using the 2006 codes and feels it is time to update. There are no major changes.

Chief Cook added that the City has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) review tomorrow and we receive credit for enforcing codes that are no more than six years old. Code books are updated every three years.

Voting on approval of **Ordinance No. 2014-03-05 Adopting Certain International Codes**: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook stated that it has been 12 years since we have had an ISO review. The rating is based on items, such as water supply, communications, and departmental procedures. These ratings affect insurance rates throughout the community.

Mayor Skip Lee stated that applications for firefighter positions are available and testing will begin April 19.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to move to "closed session" at 6:55 pm to discuss personnel as covered under subsection (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 7:12 pm; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to a Study Session at 7:12 pm.

Manager Shumard presented the following funds for review:

- Capital Fund – more Streetscape was completed last year on Third Street than anticipated so less of the project is left for next year. Thomas Park is on hold until the Park District completes their analysis. An extra \$80,000 has been allotted to change out lighting in Coliseum lot.
- Library Board – paying back loan to City from reserves
- Coliseum Board –remodeling funds have been expended
- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
- Social Security Fund
- Tax Increment Allocation Fund – Rock River Redevelopment – tax increment not where it is scheduled to be so we are working with assessor.
- Sewer Fund – Increase base rate from \$5.10 to \$5.35 and user rate from \$1.57 to \$1.82. Converting two part-time positions to full-time positions to help with sewer billing. One will work on the debt recovery through the state.
- Solid Waste Fund – Increase from \$15.05 to \$15.30
- Health Insurance Fund

Manager Shumard outlined the storm water projects that need to be done and the suggested storm water utility fees for the new members on the Council. Discussion was held how to pay for these projects if a utility fee is not instituted.

The meeting closed at 9:04 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk