

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 19, 2012. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Linda Marley, Joe Martin, Lou Sotelo, and Amy Viering.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Director of Financial Services Cindy Von Holten, Code Enforcement Officer Amanda Schmidt, Building and Zoning Services Coordinator Mike Wolber, Interim Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

John Parsons, 801 Avenue B, stated that he has lived in the community for six years and is a local businessman. His is not an activist but a family man. He is frightened that Illinois American Water Company (IAWC) wants to install smart meters. These meters transmit 100 times the radiation that a cell phone does for a radius of one mile. They can also be used as a surveillance device. Parsons's main concerns are the inconvenience of not using a utility during peak hours because they can disrupt service and for safety of the people.

Alderman Cox explained the City will need to look at the information presented by Parsons and assured him the Council would not allow something that would invalidate homeowner's insurance.

Audie Foster, Operations Superintendent for IAWC, stated that the 900I meters are made by Neptune and sold nationally. FCC regulates the radio transmissions. A baby monitor transmits .6 watts and this meter transmits .06 watts for approximately one minute per day. 40% of the City's meters have been replaced and the remainder should be replaced in the next five years.

Mayor Lee asked if IAWC regulates usage of water. Foster explained that water is a valuable commodity but in the Midwest there is no peak demand.

Parsons stated that the meters send pulses with a continuous output.

Mayor Lee assured Parsons that the smart meters would be reviewed.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) 1) City Council Minutes of March 5, 2012
- 2) Study Session Minutes of March 12, 2012
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$276,863.18

- C) Request from Police Department to dispose of City owned obsolete and surplus equipment and abandoned and unclaimed property recovered by the Police Department

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee moved the Proclamation for “Kick Butts Day” to the end of the agenda.

Alderman Elston made a motion to designate March as National Athletic Training Month in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Marley. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and presented the proclamation to Andy Accardi, Shane Brown, and Andi Sumerfelt, the athletic trainers at Newman High School, Rock Falls High School, and Sterling High School, respectively.

Alderman Marley made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2012-03-04 Authorizing the Sale of Certain Residential Properties at 308 West Seventh Street, 710 Avenue D, 1405 Johnson Avenue, and 1003 West Sixth Street;** seconded by Alderman Martin. Mike Wolber reported the closing on these houses should take place next week and we have interest in two more properties. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve Change Order #1 for Insituform repairs to Locust Street sanitary sewer in the amount of \$4860.00; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve Partial Pay Request #1 for the Locust Street sanitary sewer work to Insituform Technologies USA, Inc. in the amount of \$52,428.60; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to designate March 21, 2012, as “Kick Butts Day” in Sterling, Illinois; seconded by Alderman Cox. Mayor Lee presented the proclamation to the students attending supporting the “Kick Butts Day” from Sterling, Rock Falls, and Newman High Schools. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Alderman Elston read the proclamation into the record.

Mayor Lee commended the Police Department for their work with the Community Action Group, named “WE CAN”. The group will be meeting next Monday at 7:00 pm with the media to kick start the program. Mayor Lee feels this is a wonderful policing effort to eliminate the drug and gang problems in our communities. Chief Potthoff stated that law enforcement can arrest and prosecute but someone new takes their place. This program will involve the community and be more effective.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk