

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 20, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, 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, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

No emails or phone calls were received prior to the meeting. Kris Noble with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber asked Council members of their interest in the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities. The grant application must run through the City. Manager Shumard alerted Council that if applicants defaulted, the City would be responsible for repayment. Concerns for businesses are that detailed financials are required and are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by the public once they are submitted. Noble stated she have five businesses that are interested. This looks favorable on the City for working with the businesses. Council agreed to proceed with caution. Form a committee of City personnel and members of the public to review and collect information.

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

- A) Minutes of April 6, 2020
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,329,447.73
- C) Ordinance #2020-04-09 Amending Chapter 6, Article II, Section 41, to Increase the Number of Available Liquor License to 33**
- D) Ordinance #2020-04-10 Amending the Zoning Map to Reclassify Property Owned by Rich Koch, Two4Five LLC, 202 Fourth Avenue from DB (Downtown Business) to DB-SU (Downtown Business-Special Use)**
- E) Ordinance #2020-04-11 Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2019 in the amount of \$49,697,085, an increase of \$7,090,624**
- F) Change Order #1 for the Lynn/LeFevre Roundabout in the amount of 59,649 to Martin & Company for additional grinding, paving, and shoulder rehab on Lynn Boulevard

G) Change order #3 in the amount of \$76,242.50 and authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for reimbursement from DRE, Inc.

H) Waive Bid Process and Approve Contract with Sterling Environmental For Building Abatement activities in the amount of \$8,360 for the former National site

Motion seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, 2020; seconded by Alderman Wise. Superintendent Schrader reported one tree will be planted at Wallace Park on April 24 at 10:00 am. The project was downsized because of COVID 19. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-04-12 Adopting Procedures to Permit Electronic Attendance at Meetings**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Attorney Zollinger outlined requirements that Aldermen/Mayor notify the City Clerk three days prior to the meeting so that electronics can be arranged. Members may attend electronically if they are ill, unable able to attend because of employment, or a family emergency occurs. After approval at the meeting and a quorum is present, the member can join the meeting electronically. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-04-13 Amending the Sterling City Code Section 7-14 to establish the cost of refuse collection**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Discussion followed on the effective date for the \$.70 increase. This increase reflects the cost to the City with the Republic contract. The City would be withdrawing \$3700 monthly from reserves if it is not effective May 1. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – Alderman Wise. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-04-14 Amending Chapter 94 Regarding Wastewater Service Charges and Section 35 Regarding Billing and Collection of Service Charges**; seconded by Alderman Wise. Discussion followed on the timing of the increase. The additional fees go toward the future treatment plant and would be approximately \$2.30 per household. The City would be foregoing approximately \$16,400 monthly to delay this increase. Attorney Zollinger noted the state could be concerned if the City is not increasing fees to provide debt service reduction as agreed on any loans or grants. Alderman Wise made a motion to defer the sewer increase until August 1, 2020; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting to amend the ordinance to reflect effective date to August 1, 2020. Ayes – Aldermen

Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Voting to approve **Ordinance #2020-04-14 Amending Chapter 94 Regarding Wastewater Service Charges and Section 35 Regarding Billing and Collection of Service Charges** as amended to reflect effective date of August 1, 2020: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-04-15 Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget in the amount of \$41,737,988**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. The budget was unchanged. Salary increases and most capital projects will be on hold until revenues are evaluated following the shelter-in-place order throughout the state. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the write-off of uncollectible accounts totaling \$15,952.21 for fiscal year 2019-2020; seconded by Alderman Elston. Council noticed reoccurring names on accounts that are written off and wondered what could be done to collect from them. Director Von Holten was open for suggestions. Mayor Lee stated this could possibly be addressed with registration of landlords and rental properties. Alderman Wise believes he and Alderman Wilen could present this to the landlord association. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee asked Manager Shumard for an update on the sewer collapse in the 500 block of Avenue G. Shumard reported the hole has been open for a month and has had no contact with the family. A third estimate of \$13,900 has been received. The bank with the mortgage has opted to not loan the money to the property owners. Superintendent Schrader has heard from a contractor and another party pursuing a loan through different bank. Shumard is concerned this could set a precedent for the amount and length of the loan. Attorney Zollinger felt these were unique circumstances because of it being on a significant roadway. Zollinger proposed the Council approve the Manager to negotiate the best deal on the note and repayment schedule. Alderman Wise made a motion to authorize Manager Shumard to work with the owners of the house at 613 West Sixth Street to arrange a loan with the best term and repayment schedule, if necessary; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to move to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters pursuant to 5ILCS 12/2(c)(2) and to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees

pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) at 7:37 pm; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 8:51 pm, seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Local Fraternal Order of Police Patrol Officers; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Manager Shumard thanked the Police Department for their cooperation on this agreement. It is a one-year contract and aligns salaries with other Police Departments in our area.

Alderman Stauter expressed relief that yard waste would now be collected.

Alderman Wilen asked Superintendent Schmidt to keep her in the loop of progress at 310 Seventh Avenue.

Mayor Lee announced that Police Chief Tim Morgan would be retiring July 31. Lee stated this would be a big loss to the City.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk