

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 6, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also present 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.

There were no Communications from Visitors. No emails were received prior to the meeting.

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

- A) Minutes of March 16, 2020
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,556,290.46
- C) Plan Commission Minutes of February 20, 2020
- D) Employment Agreement with Gary Cook and the City of Rock Falls to continue employing Cook as Fire Chief
- E) Resolution #R2020-04-08 to Close Fourth Street for Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 25, 2020**
- F) Resolution #R2020-04-09 to Close Fourth Street for Sterling Municipal Band Concerts**
- G) Resolution #R2020-04-10 to Close Fourth Street for Sterling Main Street Movies**
- H) Resolution #R2020-04-11 Ratifying Mayor Action and Authorizing Extension of Municipal Fee Deadlines for Annual License and Annual Permit Fees to July 31, 2020**
- I) Ordinance #2020-04-07 Annexing Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision – Group 4)**
- J) Resolution #2020-04-12 to Refer Consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision – Group 5)**
- K) Ordinance #2020-04-08 Annexing Certain Territory Wholly Bounded by the City of Sterling along 16th Avenue/Lynn Boulevard and 2510 Locust**

- L) Pay Request #1 for Johnson Avenue Phase 1 to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$19,828.17
- M) Pay Request #4 for Northland Mall Basin to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$313,843.50
- N) Pay Request #3 for Dillon Avenue Phase II for Civil Constructors in the amount of \$232,953.982
- O) Pay Request for Sterling Public Market to Porter Brothers in the amount of \$26,994.88
- P) Change Order #3 for Sterling Public Market in the amount of \$3156.75
- Q) Engineering Proposal with Wendler Engineering for Retention Pond Evaluation in the Meadowlands Business Park

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

Manager Shumard announced the Revolving Loan Fund held by Sterling Industrial Development Commission will be used for COVID-19 relief to small businesses. Small businesses with less than 25 employees may apply for up to \$10,000 to the Greater Sterling Development Corporation. A total of \$300,000 is available, which enables up to 30 businesses to receive relief to help during this time.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; 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 April 12 – 18, 2020, as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee opened a public hearing for the budget at 6:46 pm. Clerk Rombouts did not receive any comments from the public through email regarding the budget. No one attending via Zoom offered comments. Mayor Lee closed the public hearing at 6:48 pm.

Budget discussion ensued. The following points were presented.

- Proceed with budget as presented.
- Review in July. License fees will be due July 31, coinciding with state extensions.
- Increase solid waste rates to coincide with hauler's increases.
- Delay salary increases.
- Delay increasing wastewater fees. Shumard cautioned Wastewater Treatment plant has been taking in more storm water with every storm and cash reserves

would be used that are designated for new plant. Attorney Zollinger also cautioned that an increase in fees cannot be retroactive, like salaries.

- Delay capital improvement projects. Shumard outlined the projects that will proceed are the roundabout at Lynn/LeFevre and partnering with Illinois American Water to reconstruct Brink's Circle and West 20th Street.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone that yard waste will not be collected but can be taken to Public Works between 7:00 am and 2:30 pm Monday through Friday after calling.

Alderman Wise asked about garbage collection on Avenue G with the road collapse. Shumard stated the City is waiting for the bank's response to proceed with sewer repairs.

Mayor Lee thanked first responders for their continual readiness. Lee noted Shelter-in-Place is extended to May 1 and will be re-evaluated at two week intervals.

Manager Shumard reported the fence at Wallace Park was replaced with a 4' vinyl-coated, chain-link fence.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk