

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, and John Stauter. Absent: Alderman Barry Cox and Lou Sotelo.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, City Management Intern Kevin Smith, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rod Kleckler called the Council's attention to recent minutes and tonight's agenda. The City of God owed the City money that was written off and they are now petitioning for a bucket brigade. Kleckler felt the City could get some money from their bucket brigade.

Larry Woosley stated that someone at the last meeting thought the City was sugar coating the reason for a new sidewalk. Woosley believes the same thing is happening with the rental program because the City claims it is for the safety and welfare of tenants who cannot afford to move. Woosley believes it is for the fees and fines. Another reason Woosley believes Sterling wants the program is to justify why they have six Code Enforcement officers versus Rock Falls with 1.5 officers. They are trying to justify payroll. Sterling wants to control everything. Woosley agreed with Alderman Martin's statement at the last meeting that voter turnout was very poor. Woosley believes people did not vote because taxes always go up; government does not care what the citizens think; and there is no need for a City Council because they do whatever the Mayor proposes. Woosley supported Alderman Marley and Alderman Cox for saying no in the past. Alderman Cox understood that people in Sterling don't have deep pockets. Woosley commented on Stauter's opinion of the 1/2% sales tax failing and will the City kick the can down the road or find another tax. Woosley stated the public said no to the tax and flooding only occurs 3 to 4 days of the year so why worry about it. Woosley thanked Alderman Cox for his service to the City.

Mary Carlson stated that Alderman Cox represented her but never had solutions to the matters he voted against. Carlson was also disappointed that the 1/2% sales tax failed because it could have been shared by everyone and now the stormwater utility tax will be paid by only the citizens.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of April 20, 2015

B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$940,539.69

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

Alderman Martin made a motion to pass **Resolution No. R2015-05-08 Declaring the Results of the Consolidated Municipal Election on April 7, 2015**; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the resolution into the record.

Clerk Rombouts administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee, Ward One Alderman Retha Elston, Ward Two Alderman Chris Wilen, Ward Three Alderman Bob Conklin, and Ward Four Joe Martin.

With no further business, the meeting of the old Council adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:47 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, City Management Intern Kevin Smith, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

Rod Kleckler wanted to educate the new Council members on what the Rental Inspection program would do. It will not prevent tenants from selling drugs. It will not keep rentals in a good state of repair. It will cause rents to increase about \$20 to \$25 monthly. It will not bring better tenants. It may or may not increase the quality of housing. It will not improve the looks and beauty of housing, just the functionality. It will make money for the City. Kleckler believes it is not legal because non-home rule communities do not have that power. It will not protect a tenant from an owner-occupied dump next door. It will not protect property values.

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

- A) 2015-2016 MICA Insurance Renewal Premium
- B) Partial Pay Request #1 to Martin and Company for the Green Infrastructure Phase 1B Site Improvements in the amount of \$54,360.00
- C) Partial Pay Request #2 to Martin and Company for the Green infrastructure Phase 1B Site Improvements in the amount of \$61,538.40
- D) Petition from Amazing Grace Church to barricade /close the 500 block of Second Avenue from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for a July 4<sup>th</sup> Bash
- E) Petition from City of God to hold a bucket brigade on May 9, 2015

F) Petition from Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) to hold a bucket brigade on May 23, 2015

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the reappointment of Cindy Von Holten to the Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees for a three-year term; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to appoint Fourth Ward Alderman Joe Martin as Vice Chairperson for a period of one year; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the Proclamation observing Police Memorial Day on May 15 and National Police Week, May 10 – 16, 2015; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Police Chief Ron Potthoff. Chief Potthoff indicated we are in trying times for officers.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring Saturday, May 9, 2015, as National Letter Carrier Food Drive Day; seconded by Aldermen Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 10 – 16, 2015 as National Nursing Home Week and adopt the theme of "Bring on the Fiesta"; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Clerk Rombouts reported that Attorney Coplan is recuperating in a Skilled Care facility.

Manager Shumard reported the Chamber will be hosting an Open House on May 19. Strategic Planning is progressing. Shumard may plan for a Friday for the Council Workshop because he was not having a positive response for Saturdays. Application deadline for Public Works Superintendent was last week. There were 14 applicants, including six internal candidates. Shumard reported that a noise complaint was received from a downtown bar. The new zoning code will address these types of noise issues. He also clarified that a debt that has been written off can still be collected.

Alderman Wilen reported she has been in touch with Police Officer Frank Hopes and is pleased to join the Neighborhood Watch Group for a potluck in the park.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of Clean & Green Days on May 15 and 16. Manager Shumard stated that Public Works will have a drop off site for large items and reminded citizens to have proof of residency. Hazardous wastes and electronics cannot be dropped off.

Alderman Elston also reported that playground equipment in Lincoln Park was fixed by Public Works and graffiti has been removed at the old gas station on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Elston thanked Aldermen Cox and Sotelo for their leadership while on the Council.

Alderman Stauter encouraged everyone to support the Letter Carriers in their food drive on Saturday. Stauter also commented on the number of televisions left along the streets. Manager Shumard stated that has become a problem because of limited ways to dispose of them.

Alderman Schuchard welcomed the new members to the Council.

Mayor Lee thanked Alderman Cox and Sotelo for their service to the City. He also thanked Alderman Martin for agreeing to serve as Vice-Chair. Alderman Martin stated that is an honor to serve another year.

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

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk