

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 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, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Tim Morgan, Deputy Police Chief Alex Chavira and Deputy City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Mayor Lee, City Manager Scott Shumard, Police Chief Tim Morgan and Deputy City Clerk Teri Sathoff were present in the council chambers while everyone else attended via Zoom. The meeting was recorded and will be kept on the city hard drive. All members in attendance could hear the other members in attendance.

There were no communications from Visitors.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Plan Commission Minutes
- C. Approval of Bills and Payroll
- D. Pay Request #7 to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$340,663.91 for the Northland Mall Regional Detention Basin
- E. Pay Request #11 to Porter Brothers Asphalt and Sealing for the Public Market, in the amount of \$71,134.67
- F. Task Order for Phosphorous Reporting Services and amendment to the General Agreement for Technical Services with Strand Engineering
- G. Request to waive fees for the Sterling and Rock Falls Rotary clubs to hold their annual fundraiser at Sterling Marketplace
- H. Request to waive the fees for Hops on the Rock at the Sterling Marketplace
- I. Request to waive the fees for CEO Trade Show at the Sterling Marketplace

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing Chief Tim Morgan for his service to the City of Sterling Police Department; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Lee administered the Oath of office to Deputy City Clerk Teri Sathoff appointing her City Clerk.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Approve Mayor Lee's reappointments of Colin Reynolds to the Police Pension Board for a 2 year term to expire 4/30/2022 and Dick Card to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5 year term to expire 6/30/2025; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee opened up a discussion in reference to extending the payment due date for liquor licenses. The original due date for renewal was April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Council gave businesses an extension until July, 31 2020. There are currently eleven businesses that have not made their liquor license payment. Two of the eleven businesses have submitted the required paperwork for renewal.

Mayor Lee stated that due to the hardships on liquor license holders as a result of the COVID-19 virus outbreak, state law has automatically extended the renewal dates of State liquor licenses and deferred the collection of license renewal fees through December 31, 2020. Mayor Lee was seeking input from the council in reference to extending the renewal date.

Alderman Wilen stated that she would like to see an extension since these are businesses that are just opening up after the COVID-19 closure.

Alderman Martin showed concern that if the renewal was extended till December that would create a short turn-around time for these businesses to pay the following year's renewal fee.

Alderman Elston would like to give an extension through September, October or November.

Alderman Stauter would like to give an extension through the end of September, which he feels would be reasonable for all businesses.

Alderman Wise would like to see an extension, he believes that the payments will be made in the same fiscal year, therefore an extension isn't an issue.

Alderman Johnson believes that these businesses should be given till December 31<sup>st</sup>, to coincide with the State of Illinois.

Attorney Zollinger made a suggestion for consideration, he suggested that the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline remain in effect, if a business is unable to pay by that deadline the city would institute an arrangement for monthly payments with the balance to be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. All of the Alderman were in agreement that this seemed reasonable.

Chief Morgan thanked everyone for their support during his time as Chief of Police, he was able to accomplish a lot of things with the support of the City Manager, Mayor and City Council. Chief Morgan feels he is leaving the department in good.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader thanked Chief Morgan for his hard work.

City Manager Shumard updated the council on current projects; 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and LeFevre will be started this week, city crews are finishing the 500 block of East 25<sup>th</sup>, they will then move to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, once they are done with 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue they will move to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The Northland Mall detention pond engineer will be here on Wednesday for a final walk through and approval. We are currently working on the Emergency Operations Policy, Deputy Chief Dettman will provide training to the city departments. We received an update from Redzone Robotics, they have finished the majority of large diameter pipes. There will be a change order from them as we have more pipe than was originally thought. The Fire Department will be advertising for the administrative assistant position this week. Sterling and Rock Falls Mayors have signed the agreement with Illinois Fire Chief's Association to replace Chief Cook as Chief of the Twin City Joint Fire Command. The Police Chief advertisement went out today as well. On July 31<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Alex Chavira will be the interim Chief of Police.

Alderman Stauter congratulated Chief Morgan on his retirement and thanked him for his service.

Alderman Elston congratulated Chief Morgan and wished him well. She thanked Superintendent of Building and Zoning, Amanda Schmidt for working with her on several issues. She stated that her father was diagnosed with cancer prior to the pandemic and they received good news today that his PET scan came back cancer free and she appreciated everyone's prayers.

Alderman Johnson congratulated Chief Morgan on his retirement and thanked him for his service. Johnson also invited everyone to attend the CEO Tradeshow July 28<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sterling Market Place. Mayor Lee thanked Alderman Johnson for his input and dedication to the City Council since his appointment.

Alderman Wise congratulated Chief Morgan on his retirement and thanked him for his service, his many accomplishments will be remembered. Alderman Wise indicated he would like to speak to City Manager Shumard in reference to abandoned properties and the misuse of such properties.

Alderman Martin thanked Chief Morgan for his years of service to the city.

Alderman Wilen congratulated Chief Morgan on his retirement and thanked him for all the contributions he has made to the police department.

Mayor Lee stated that Amanda Schmidt had approached him with the idea of researching programs that encourage the "house flipping" industry. There are houses in Sterling that are dilapidated and or abandoned, we need to look into a tax abatement program for "flipping" these types of houses. Mayor Lee also wished Laura Shumard a happy 10<sup>th</sup> birthday from the council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk