

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 3, 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, Interim Police Chief Alex Chavira, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Mayor Lee, City Manager Scott Shumard and Interim Police Chief Alex Chavira were present in the council chambers, 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.

Tom Brackemeyer was in the council chambers and given time to speak as a visitor. Tom thanked the citizens of Sterling for supporting The American Legion Chicken dinner that took place today. Tom is concerned about the sidewalks on LeFevre Road, he believes it is the busiest east/west 2 lane road in Sterling. Tom also asked the citizens if they would please clean up after their pets, when they walk on them.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C. Request to waive fees from Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee to hold a Steakless fry event at Sterling Marketplace on August 6, 2020
- D. Request to waive fees from Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a PWN event at Sterling Marketplace on September 16, 2020
- E. Purchase three (3) 2021 Ford AWD Utility Police Interceptors from Kunes Country Auto Group, located in Sterling, IL, in the amount of \$90,762.00.
- F. COTA Children's Organ Transplant Association to hold a bucket brigade on August 8, 2020
- G. Knights of Columbus to hold a bucket brigade on August 22, 2020

Motion seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Elston commented on the bucket brigade for the Children's Organ Transplant Association, Natalie Buck is on the heart

transplant list for a second time, she would like to see the citizens support Natalie and this fundraiser. Alderman Stauter questioned why there was only one bid for the squad cars. Chief Chavira advised that three dealerships were sent the bid information and only one dealership responded. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-26 Annexing certain territory contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision - Group 8; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution No. R2020-08-19 to Refer Consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision - Group 9); Seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-27 Vacating a portion of a public alley between 8th and 9th Avenue, at the terminal end between both; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Stauter commented that he received phone calls from the neighbors in reference to the fence/gate that is there and was supposed to be removed, he was concerned as to why the city did not enforce the removal of it. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt advised Alderman Stauter that that particular complaint came in prior to any of the current staff being employed. The most recent complaint was received approximately three months ago and that complaint is what started the process for vacating the alley. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve waiving the bid process and accept the proposal from Engel Electric for street lighting at West LeFevre Road and Lynn Boulevard; seconded by Alderman Stauter. City Manager Shumard stated that this is similar to what was done in Douglas Park, if ComEd installs the lights the city would have to pay a lease for several years and it would end up costing more in the long run. The poles that will be used were left over for another project, therefore, Engel Electric is able to sell them to the city at a discounted price. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve RedZone Change Order #1; seconded by Alderman Johnson. City Manager Shumard advised the council the reason for the change order is due to a higher quantity of large diameter pipe and if there is a lower quantity of small diameter pipe we will see a change order with a refund of funds. Voting: Ayes –

Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve RedZone Change Order #2; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader advised the council there are more manholes than what an average system our size usually has in place. Since RedZone has been in town they have found several root balls and some collapsed lines. They have been finding a lot of grease in the lines as well and that is something that may need to be addressed in the future. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-28 Authorizing Liquor Control Board to enter into a payment deferral and/or installment arrangements with license holders over the payment of annual fees; seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Wise questioned when the balance would be due, he was advised the balance of all licenses would be due December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with International Association of Firefighters Local 2301; seconded by Alderman Stauter. City Manager Shumard advised that the payout of unused vacation time could be a cost saving measure in the long run as it would eliminate the need for overtime to cover the days off. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee opened up a discussion on a cooperative agreement with Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC) for constructing a home on a vacant city lot. WACC is seeking a lot for its students to build on for the next school year. The city has several residential lots from various demolition work. There is a possibility the city and WACC could work together to give the students a project while creating an infill project on a vacant site the city must currently maintain. Alderman Johnson stated that WACC would want a flat line budget for this project, they do not want to make or lose money on the project. City Manager Shumard stated that any property the city currently holds is losing money by paying for maintenance on the lot, therefore this could be a win/win situation. Contractors for plumbing and electrical would have to be subcontracted out and prevailing wage will have to be paid. All of the Aldermen agreed this is a good idea to pursue.

Mayor Lee opened up a discussion on the riverfront area. The area contains more than a dozen acres of open land. Nearly 10 acres are prairie with nearly 4,000' of paved pathway. Several concepts have been developed for use of the open area. Alderman Johnson stated he would like plant an area of usable grass on the riverfront. Johnson

would like to see the park used for more than just the walking paths. He would like to have grass planted as soon as possible to draw people to it. Alderman Stauter was concerned about the park being ADA compliant. The park is actually ADA compliant with the exception of the two foot bridges that need to be placed. Alderman Wise would like to finalize the plan and name it. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that this would only add about an hour of mowing each week. Alderman Elston would like to have signage from the Farmers Market to the park.

City Manager stated that Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt was able to get COVID-19 guards in place at the front desk of City Hall. There was a meeting with National Manufacturing's clean-up crew, equipment is arriving this week and the testing process will start the end of this month. A walk-through of the red brick building on the National property was conducted with Willett Hoffman's architect. They will be working on a plan to remove the face of the building to accommodate the new Wallace Street and salvage a decent portion of the building.

Alderman Elston reported that she has received phone call complaints in reference to motorized bicycles in the parks, on paths and on the streets without regard to traffic safety or laws. Interim Chief Chavira advised that the public should call the police department to report any infractions and they will respond to it. Attorney Zollinger advised that if the city feels this a public health hazard on sidewalks, paths and trails it can be addressed.

Alderman Wise thanked, City Manager Shumard and Attorney Zollinger for the work they have put into getting the National site contaminated areas mitigated.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk