

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 19, 2013. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Assistant to the City Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Rick Powers, Acting Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Lee removed Item 5K from the agenda.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) Minutes from August 5, 2013 meeting
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$402,733.45
- C) Petition to allow Sterling High School to hold annual Homecoming parade on Friday, September 27 at 3:30 pm
- D) Petition to allow Sterling Firefighters Local #2301 to hold a boot brigade fundraiser at the intersection of Second Street/Second Avenue on Friday, August 30 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm
- E) Petition from Newman Key Club to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser for the PADS Homeless Shelter on Friday, September 6 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the intersection of Second Avenue/Second Street
- F) Award bid for demolition of single-story residence at 1109 Avenue J with NSP2 funds to Burke Excavating in the amount of \$5,215.00
- G) Award bid for demolition of two-story residence at 606 Third Avenue with NSP2 funds to Fischer Excavating in the amount of \$10,260.00
- H) Award bid for demolition of two-story residence at 910 Fifth Avenue with NSP2 funds to CP's Demolition in the amount of \$9,400.00
- I) Refer Petition to Plan Commission from Sterling Commons Development, Inc. to amend the Sterling City Code, pertaining to signs
- J) Petition from Newman Central Catholic High School to hold Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 20 at 2:00 pm

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass the proclamation declaring September 9 – 13, 2013, as Chamber of Commerce Week; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Office of Comptroller and the City of Sterling allowing the City access to the Local Debt Recovery Program seconded by Alderman Martin. Finance Director Von Holten explained that the City currently has between \$35,000 and \$40,000 outstanding on inactive sewer accounts. The Local Debt Recovery Program costs the City nothing and provides another avenue for collection. Recovery cannot go back more than seven years, have a lien filed against it; or have it turned over to a collection agency. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to award the bid for the 2013 Streets Project Contract #2 to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$240,746.30 for the following streets:

- Avenue D – 13th to 14th Street
- Seventh Avenue – East Fourth to Sixth Street
- 19th Avenue – East Third to Fourth Street
- East Sixth Street – 16th to 18th Avenue

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

Alderman Elston was concerned that Fifth Street near Lincoln School would not be completed before Sixth Street is started. Superintendent Powers stated that Fifth Street should be done except paving and they can ask the contractor to start on Sixth Street last to assure that only one street around the school would be under construction at a time.

Alderman Cox made a motion to waive the bidding procedure and authorize the purchase of a 2007 Gomaco GT3200 from Finkbinder Equipment Company in the amount of \$119,625; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Superintendent Powers explained the machine was built in 2007 and has over 200 hours on it. The machine has more safety features than our current machine and has a track drive instead of rubber tires. There will be no trade in. We will try to sell the old one in the spring. Mayor Lee asked how much money the City has saved by reconstructing our own curbs. Superintendent Powers could not estimate that but believes we save approximately 50% on each project compared to paying a contractor. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Potthoff stated that he and Officer Ellmaker would be attending the traffic safety conference. We qualified in the first place category again but are not eligible for the new car.

Hadley Skeffington-Vos stated that she had sent an email to inform the Council of the Government Days on October 4 and 7 and encouraged Council members to attend, if possible. The last movie for this season, "Shrek", will be on Thursday evening. The Sterling Theater opens on Friday evening.

Alderman Cox stated that he had talked with Steve Berley about the pond at Thomas Park. Cox feels it is City infrastructure that we have neglected. Berley would like the support of the City Council and the Sterling Park District to form a community group to raise funds to dredge out the pond. Manager Shumard stated that two estimates of approximately \$250,000 have been received.

Alderman Stauter reminded everyone that the Library's Storytelling Festival will be held on Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31.

Mayor Lee thanked Hadley and Alderman Elston for taking care of the movie set-up and tear-down throughout the summer. He also thanked Chief Cook and the firefighters for their response to the fire at the Lawrence Brothers building.

Chief Cook explained that there was suspicious activity around the building but nothing confirmed yet. The building was secured and no one was hurt.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk