

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 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 Matt Keegan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Interim Police Chief Alex Chavira, Interim Fire Chief Mike Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Mayor Lee, City Manager 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.

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. Approval of Plan Commission Minutes
- D. RedZone Robotics Inc. Annual Payment 1 of 5 for \$243,732.46
- E. Pay Request #1 for 2020 Street Contract Program #1, 6th Avenue - 11th Street to LeFevre to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$263,799.02
- F. Pay Request #5 (Final Payment) for reconstructing Johnson Avenue from 14th Street to LeFevre Road to Twin City Construction Company in the amount of \$14,212.40
- G. Pay Request #6 (Final Payment) for 2019 Street Program Contract #1
- H. Pay Request #3 for Lynn Blvd/LeFevre Road New Construction of Roundabout to Martin and Company Excavating, in the amount of \$351,210.09
- I. Pay Request #1 for Johnson Avenue from 14th Street to 12th Street Phase II to Twin City Construction Company in the amount of \$78,667.38
- J. Pay Request #7 for Dillon Avenue from West 11th Street to West 4th Street Phase II in the amount of \$100,830.58
- K. Change order for Martin and Company Excavating to extend paving from 11th Street to 4th Street on Lynn Blvd in the amount of \$90,075.82
- L. Pay Request #2 to Custom Fire for \$380,414.60 for the completion of the fire apparatus

Motion seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Elston requested information on the RedZone and when the fire truck would be delivered. City Manager Shumard stated that the fire truck will be delivered the end of September, The RedZone has all but 5 miles of sewer lines done, they are waiting for blockages to be cleared to finish. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee recognized Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt. On August 20th Amanda received the Pearl Woods Award from the YWCA for her achievements in the Building and Zoning Department and for her community involvement.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring September 14th through September 18th, 2020 as Chamber of Commerce Week; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Kris Noble with the Chamber of Commerce noted that the Chamber has a great working relationship with the city they will continue to keep the community moving forward. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried and Mayor Lee read the proclamation.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-09-30 Annexing certain territory contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision - Group 9); 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 Resolution No. R2020-09-20 to Refer Consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision - Group 10) seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to Refer to Plan Commission for consideration to rezone and a Special Use Permit to allow for a wireless facility at 2601 East Lincolnway/Moose Lodge; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve the agreement with Illinois American Water (IAWC) to share reconstruction costs for portions of Brinks Circle and 3rd Avenue; seconded by Alderman Martin. City Manager Shumard stated this will include the alley to the east side of the post office and this will be a savings of about \$12,000. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-09-31 Intergovernmental Agreement with Whiteside Area Career Center to build a house on a City-Owned Lot; seconded by Alderman Martin. City Manager Shumard stated that the Building Trades Program at WACC did not have a private partner to work with this year. The City, having acquired several residential lots, offered use of one of the City's lot at 602 8th Avenue. WACC will benefit from having a place and project for their students and the City will benefit by a property returned to the tax rolls, development of infill and removes a lot from the city's list to maintain. After consultation with a realtor, the staff recommends the project costs be capped at \$150,000 with a goal of \$120,000 for the budget. Alderman Johnson stated that this would probably be a 2 year project, however if the house is small it could be a 1 year project. They are ready to break ground once an agreement has been made and an excavator is hired. Mayor Lee questioned the price, he wanted to make sure the neighborhood could support the sale of a house in that price range. The Mayor would like to see the project completed all on school time to keep the costs down, he is concerned about the added expense of Matthew Hicks' working on the project after school hours. Alderman Wise appreciates the quickness at which this project has moved and he is grateful for the location that was chosen. Alderman Wilen wanted to make sure that \$120,000 would be the goal. Alderman Elston is excited to see the progress and is looking forward future projects. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Alderman Johnson abstained. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made motion to approve Resolution No. R2020-09-21 supporting Grant for Brownfield Clean Up; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Stauter wanted to know how many times we have applied for this grant, City Manager Shumard advised that this is approximately the eighth time the city has applied for this grant. Alderman Wise urged the council to look for alternate plans should this grant be denied, he said we need to prepare this property for redevelopment, Alderman Johnson agreed with this. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve the Landscape Proposal for 614 W. 3rd Street, approving Distinctive Gardens' proposal for landscape improvements to the 614 West 3rd Street; Seconded by alderman Stauter. Alderman Wise questioned the timeline for this project, City Manager stated it would be completed this fall. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee opened a discussion of the Emergency Operations Plan, Interim Fire Chief Mike Dettman stated that this is something the Police Department has needed for their accreditation. Administrative Assistant Sara Young from the police department has been working with Deputy Chief Dettman to keep this plan updated. Alderman Wise would like to see that the order of succession to be revised, currently the assistant City Manager is listed as 2nd in charge, since that positions does not exist he would like to see the director

of Public Works as 2nd in charge. The director of Public Works has knowledge of transportation, utilities and public infrastructure. In Dixon the Assistant City Manager is the director of Public Works. Alderman Elston wanted to know if the areas in the plan that state "need to be developed" needed input from the council. Interim Chief Dettman stated that this will be reviewed annually and changes can be made to the plan to keep it up to date. Mayor Lee questioned the need for NIMS training for the City Council, Interim Chief Dettman will have the NIMS information sent out to the council.

Mayor Lee opened up a discussion in reference to the Utility Billing Late Fees. Due to the COVID-19 virus late fees and shut offs have been suspended. Finance Director Cindy Von Holten stated that the amount the accounts receivable for utilities normally goes up \$20,000 to 40,000 a year, this year we are already up \$80,000. People know they will not be penalized or shut off so they are not paying on their bills. There are several accounts with delinquent amounts in the hundreds of dollars. The Mayor asked the Finance Director what her recommendation would be, she stated that she feels we need to get the word out to the residents that the fees will be forth coming and that they need to get their balances down to avoid substantial fees. Alderman Wise wanted to know what other communities are doing, Cindy investigate what other municipalities are doing. Alderman Stauter is concerned that the property owners will not pay the balance that is due on rental properties if the renter moves and leaves an outstanding balance. Alderman Elston and Alderman Wilen would like to follow suit with the water company. Alderman Martin would like to know if the water company is seeing an increase in overdue bills as well, he feels we should follow suit with the water company as well. For the next meeting Mayor Lee would like to know the average sewer bill, what other communities are doing as well as what Illinois American Water are doing and to have a list of options to explore.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reported that at the August 3rd City Council meeting the council approved a bucket brigade for (COTA) Children's Organ Transplant Association on August 8th, 2020 in honor of Natalie Buck. Natalie is a local 14 year old that is need of a heart transplant. On September 8th Natalie received her heart transplant and initial reports were that she was recovering nicely. Teri also reminded the council that they received emails in reference to training that needs to be done, if they have questions they need to contact Mary Rodriguez-Stevens at 815-632-6637 or mrodriguez@sterling-il.gov.

Interim Fire Chief Dettman reported that Lieutenant Timothy Wright's retirement will be official on September 11, 2020. Firefighter Garrett Ramos will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant and the Police Fire Commission is working on hiring a new firefighter.

Interim Police Chief Alex Chavira invited the City Council to attend a ceremony to honor the police officers that saved the life of 12 year old Teleah Serrano from the fire at

Western Apartments. The ceremony will be on September 18, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Grandon Civic Center. If the weather is inclement it will be held in the council chambers. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported that crews completed cleaning up the storm debris, the city was covered twice. A contractor assisted with the clean-up. Mayor Lee stated that residents have commended Public Works for all their hard work.

Alderman Statuer congratulated Amanda Schmidt for receiving the Pearl Woods award and he thanked Public works for all their hard work, he has received several compliments on the clean-up efforts.

Alderman Johnson thanked City Manager Shumard and Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader for meeting with him on the riverfront. City Manager Shumard will have plans drawn up for useable grass area.

Alderman Wilen thanked Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt for her department working to clean up the 4th Avenue property.

Alderman Martin wanted to know if there was a date set for the Chamber and Sterling Main Street meeting, Shumard advised the date will be coming shortly.

Mayor Lee stated the news about Natalie Buck was nice to hear, he also wanted to pass along that the City received a certificate of thank you from the Knights of Columbus for allowing them to hold their bucket brigade.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Teri Sathoff
City Clerk