

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 18, 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, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Fire Captain Mike Dettman, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, Police Lieutenant Doug Fargher, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no communication from Visitors.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of November 4, 2013
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$942,463.91
- C) **Resolution #R2013-11-30 Authorizing the sale of surplus property at 1213 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** to Laurie A. Kent in the amount of \$63,000 through the NSP2 program
- D) Petition from Sterling Fire Department to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser for the Salvation Army from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at the intersections of Second Street/Second Avenue and Locust/Fifth Street
- E) Petition from Jaycees to hold annual Christmas for Kids fundraiser on Saturday, December 21 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at the intersections of Second Street/Second Avenue, First Avenue/Third Street and Fourth Street/Second Avenue
- F) Award bid for demolition of two-story structure located at 902 First Avenue in the amount of \$11,900.00 to CP's Demolition
- G) Final Pay Request for the 2013 Street Projects Contract #1 to Martin and Company Excavating in the amount of \$12,842.31

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Elston asked how many houses are left in the NSP2 program. Superintendent Schmidt believes there is one more house to build and then sell. There are no other houses. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Potthoff introduced two new police officers, Benjamin Tuttle and Bradley Dempsey. These officers were hired in July, attended 12 weeks of basic training, graduated on September 26, and are completing their 14 weeks of field training.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to appoint Dr. Shawn Hanlon to the hospital board to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Joseph Gaziano, which will expire June 30, 2018; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring December 2013 as Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to pass **Ordinance No. 2013-11-28 Amending the Enterprise Zone** to include Kune's Country Auto Group in Mt. Carroll to expand their facilities including a new show room and repair facility; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the Tax Levy Estimate in the amount of \$3,488,249; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Manager Shumard explained that the tax levy estimate was prepared without the actuarial estimate for the Police Department. The actuary has predicted the Police Pension would likely be less than Shumard estimated; thereby a public hearing would not be necessary. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Greg Hummel with Bryan Cave LLP reminded Council members that the Mud to Gardens Grant was approved by the City and the State should take action in the next 7 to 10 days. This grant is for \$900,000 to transport mud from the Fox River area.

Hummel recommended hiring Cardno as the sole source provider for design, engineering and construction management services for Phase I and Phase II of the grants. Phase I should run smoothly except the delay on the manufactured gas plant in the southwest corner of the Plant 1, which is the responsibility of Commonwealth Edison.

Hummel would like the City to take action on the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) grant at the December 2 meeting and authorize the City to enter into the agreement.

Phase II may take more planning for the City to come up with matching funds to improve roofs to green, provide green parking lots, and improve storm water management. Hummel is looking into funding sources.

Mayor Lee asked when Commonwealth Edison is planning to remove the manufactured gas plant. Hummel believes it is scheduled for 2014.

Mayor Lee asked when the City can release the plans to the public. Hummel believes Phase I plans should be available during the first quarter of next year.

Chief Cook reported that State dispatch has asked for extra generators to be sent to Washington, Illinois, during their tornado recovery process.

Manager Shumard recognized Chief Potthoff for 40 years of service to the City.

Alderman Elston reported that some of her family lives in Washington. Her daughter and son-in-law are fine but yesterday was a scary day. Elston reminded everyone to heed the storm warnings.

Alderman Elston commended the Mayor on his auctioneer talents at the Boy Scouts of America fundraiser on Saturday.

Mayor Lee extended compassion to the people of Washington. He was pleased to know that Sterling is able to help with generators and has developed their own disaster plan.

Mayor Lee reminded citizens of the last day for yard waste collection is December 6.

Mayor Lee asked Chief Potthoff for tips on the upcoming change in cell phone usage in vehicles. Chief Potthoff stated that beginning January 1, 2014, it will be illegal to drive with a cell phone in your hand. At the end of November, press releases will begin to educate the public on hands-free usage of cell phones.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk