

Mayor Amy Viering called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2011. Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Skip Lee, Linda Marley, Joe Martin, and Lou Sotelo.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Interim Fire Chief Gary Cook, Building and Zoning Services Coordinator Mike Wolber, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Viering welcomed Scout Pack #305 to the meeting, who are working on a government badge.

Dick Card, a resident on 16th Avenue, commended the City for the cleanup happening on the overgrowth of brush along Lynn Boulevard. Mayor Viering thanked Mr. Card for returning to a meeting to notice the accomplishment.

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

- A) City Council Minutes of January 3, 2011
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$480,866.56

The motion was seconded by Alderman Lee. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2011-01-01 Amending Section 46-1 et seq of the Sterling City Code as it relates to Flood Plains**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Cox asked how much of the City is in a floodplain. Mike Wolber explained that areas around the Elkhorn Creek and along the river are the primary areas in the City; the majority of the floodplain lies outside City limits. There is a map in the Stormwater Plan. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the bids for the 2011 Motor Fuel Tax General Maintenance as follows:

- Agricultural Ground Limestone from Northwest Illinois Construction at \$2.50 per ton (no change from 2010)
- Bituminous Patching Mixture from Northwest Illinois Construction at \$62.00 per ton (no change from 2010)
- Bituminous Mixture Concrete Surface from Northwest Illinois Construction at \$54.50 per ton (no change from 2010)

- Aggregate Surface Course from Northwest Illinois Construction at \$4.85 per ton and Alliance Materials at \$4.90 per ton (up from 2010 bid price of \$4.20)

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Both bids for aggregate surface course can be accepted to allow the City maximum flexibility in obtaining materials at the bid price. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mike Wolber brought the Council up to date on the NSP2 grant. He noted that one year is behind us. The City has purchased five properties: 710 Avenue D, 308 West Seventh Street, 1002 West Fifth Street, 602 Dillon Avenue, and 1001 Sixth Avenue.

- Bids have been sent out for 710 Avenue D.
- Bids are being prepared for 308 West Seventh Street and 602 Dillon Avenue.
- 1001 Sixth Avenue is a duplex that will be demolished.
- 1002 West Fifth Street is still being studied to determine if it can be sanitized or should be demolished.
- The GSDC has purchased a house at 1003 West Sixth Street, which was going to be used for the Building Trades to renovate. Because of extensive repairs required, it will be demolished and a new dwelling constructed. It will then be sold to a qualifying family.

The City is only able to purchase properties if there has been a foreclosure or they are abandoned and vacant. The purchase of the house and repairs should help to stabilize neighborhoods.

The submitted budget reflected that we rehabilitate as many as 17 houses and demolish and redevelop one property. We can allocate as much as \$200,000 for demolition of blighted properties. The row house on East Third Street was paid for with these funds.

Buyers are qualified to purchase homes if their income is 120% of the median income and they complete an 8-hour counseling and training session. Following the sale, the money recovered will go back into the grant funds to be used again.

Funds are also available to assist home buyers, up to 35% of the purchase price.

There are a few national objectives of this grant. Approximately \$725,000 must be used for home buyers with less than 50% of the area median income. 50% must be spent by February 11, 2012. By February 11, 2013, everything has to be spent.

Alderman Lee thanked Mike Wolber for everything he has done for this grant. Lee suggested that we work with Habitat for Humanity. Mike Wolber stated that some areas have partnered with Habitat for Humanity; however, Sterling no longer has that agency locally.

Mayor Viering also thanked Mike Wolber for his diligence on this grant.

Manager Shumard stated that help is on the way for Wolber because they started interviews for the building inspector. Shumard also reported that last week the Riverfront Development meeting was held with a low turnout.

Manager Shumard displayed a map of roadways that have been improved over the last 20 years. It pays to invest in our roads. The City has over 90 centerline miles of streets. It costs between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per block to reconstruct. The City crews do approximately \$100,000 of curb, gutter and sidewalk work each summer. Approximately \$160,000 of streetlights were installed last year. 56 miles of paving projects have been completed since 1990.

Shumard also reminded the Council that three years ago they selected a City Manager and he hoped they were still happy with him.

Mayor Viering stated the Municipal Band had a good concert. She was unable to attend but heard it went very well.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk