

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 2, 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 18, 2013
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$829,748.66
- C) Petition from Toys for Tots to hold bucket brigade fundraiser on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the intersections of Second Street/Second Avenue and First Avenue/Third Street
- D) Purchase of seven in-car digital video recording systems and accompanying Digital Evidence Management Software/Hardware in the amount of \$30,990 from Digital-Ally of Lenexa, KS
- E) Plan Commission Minutes for September 19, 2013 meeting
- F) Refer to Plan Commission a petition from Larry Ybarra and John Ybarra to extend the Special Use Permit time limit for the proposed sports complex at Oak Grove Avenue and St. Mary's Road
- G) Partial Pay Request #3 for Streetscape Phase 10A to Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$98,088.65
- H) Partial Pay Request #2 for 2013 Street Projects Contract #2 to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$98,613.09

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 approve **Ordinance No. 2013-12-29 Amending the Sign Code** to permit wall signs on two walls of a building without two street frontages; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Stauter stated this ordinance is against the Plan Commission recommendation. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, and Sotelo. Nays – Alderman Stauter. Motion carried.

Attorney Coplan stated that he has not witnessed it here, but reminded Council members that cell phones or personal electronic equipment should not be used during Council meetings. Communication sent during Council meetings is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and becomes a public record.

Chief Cook reminded Council members of the Seasonal Sights and Sounds Parade on Friday, December 6. He suggested that members meet at the Fire station at 5:30 pm to get ready for the parade line-up.

Manager Shumard reported that USEPA would be in Sterling on Wednesday to walk through the Lawrence Building. The architects were in the Coliseum last week. The actuary met with staff this morning. The summary for the tax levy is a 3.8% increase for the Police Pension and an 11.8% increase for the Fire Pension. These figures do not reflect two recent retirements in the Fire Department, so next year will look worse.

Alderman Martin extended congratulations to the Newman Comets on their state championship football team.

Alderman Sotelo thanked everyone for a successful "Shop Small Saturday".

Alderman Cox encouraged everyone to shop small and local.

Alderman Elston encouraged everyone to join the festivities for the Seasonal Sights and Sounds. Mayor Lee stated there will be events for everyone.

Manager Shumard reported there will be 4.9% increase in the tax levy. Because it does not exceed 5%, a hearing is not necessary. The tax levy will be on the next agenda.

Mayor Lee reported that orders for Girl Scout Cookies will be taken January 1 through January 22, 2014.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk