

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 15, 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 Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and Deputy City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

No emails or phone calls were received prior to the meeting. Nolan Anderson, president of the Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees asked the council to consider a onetime donation of \$1,500 for the annual July 4th fireworks. Due to COVID-19 the Jaycees will be holding the fireworks July 3rd on the riverfront instead of at Sterling Park District's Westwood facility, the majority of the funds are received in parking fees and concessions at Westwood. The \$1,500 is 15% of the Jaycees' budget for the fireworks, they have been raising funds and applying for grants as well. Mayor Lee and the council do not want to set a precedence for other nonprofit organizations to solicit funds from the council. City Manager Shumard stated that due to the extenuating circumstances and the fact that the city has approved small business loans and grants, he believes it could be considered by the council since it is a community event and Sterling is one of the few communities that will be having fireworks this year. The April sales tax returns came in late last week and they did not fall off from last year, at this time we are in fairly good shape. Council members Johnson, Wise, Stauter, Elston, Wilen and Martin agreed we should support the donation. Alderman Martin thinks there should be some type of policy. Attorney Zollinger stated that it could be put on the bills payable for the July 6th meeting for approval or it could be added as a second line item for approval. Kris Noble wanted to add that they have worked with the Chamber and the Main Street and other community groups for funding.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A) Bills and Payroll totaling \$978,341.43
- B) Minutes of June 1, 2020
- C) Plan Commission minutes of April 2, 2020 and April 16, 2020.
- D) 2020-2021 MICA Insurance Renewal Premium
- E) Amendment No. 3 to Task Order No 17-01 for the Northland Mall Detention Basin.
- F) Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 19-01 for the 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue Drainage Improvements.
- G) Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 19-03 for the 2020 Stormwater Projects Construction Related Services.
- H) **Resolution #R2020-06-16** Regarding the .02% Building and Maintenance Property Tax Levy for the Sterling Public Library.

Motion seconded by Alderman Martin. City Manager Shumard wanted to make note that the .02% Tax Levy is not new, this has been in place for several years if not decades and this is just the annual renewal of the levy. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve reappointment of the following members to their boards or commissions: seconded by Alderman Johnson.

- Kevin O'Keefe to the Band Commission for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2025
- Tom Ausman to Police and Fire Commission for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023
- Rhonda Borgmann to the Library Board for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023
- Carol Siefken to the Library Board for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023
- June Shearer to the Library Board for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023
- Carolyn Spencer to the Hospital Board for five-year term to expire June 30, 2025
- Andrew Moore to the Hospital Board for five-year terms to expire June 30, 2025
- Kurt Glazier to the Property Maintenance Code of Appeals Board for a two year term to expire June 30, 2022.
- Eddy Nicklaus to the Property Maintenance Code of Appeals Board for a two year term to expire June 30, 2022.
- Linda Dir to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Shelly Marks to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Carol Eberly to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Jamie Schwingle to the Plan Commission for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Rene Morris to the Plan Commission for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- David Jones to Plumbing Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Jay Morthland to Plumbing Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.
- Larry Reaver to Plumbing Board of Appeals for three year terms to expire June 30, 2023.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the appointment of Joe Strabala-Bright to the Plan Commission; seconded by Alderman Wise. Mayor Lee thanked Mr. Lineville for his service. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, stated that having a younger person on the Plan Commission will be a good addition. Mr. Strabala-Bright is looking forward to serving the community, he has a passion for public service and is

excited to be able to lend his unique experience to Sterling. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

City Manager Shumard reported that there will be a kick off meeting on Thursday June 18th, for the Red Zone Sewer Inspection Group. Friday June 19th, the 6th Avenue 11th to LeFevre contract bids are open. Tuesday June 23rd, is the next consolidated dispatch meeting. The Lawrence Brothers and National Webinar has been uploaded to YouTube, search for the City of Sterling National or Lawrence. The next City Council meeting should include the Fire Department contract, it is almost complete. We have had one "Cocktail to Go" License application.

City Attorney Zollinger reported that effective Friday June 12th there is a new Public Act that formalizes the using of virtual meetings during a state of public health crisis. There is new structure with a few minor changes to what we have been doing, he will get a letter out to the council outlining the changes.

Alderman Wise thanked Chief Cook for all he has done.

Alderman Stauter is still getting reports of restaurants permitting inside sit down service. Mayor Lee stated all complaints need to be referred to the Health Department. City Manager Shumard advised he was advised by the Whiteside County Health Department to call the following number with complaints (815) 772-7411 extension 104.

Aldermen Elston thanked Chief Cook for his years of service to Sterling and Rock Falls.

City Manager Shumard thanked Chief Cook for his service, he has been an amazing asset to the City of Sterling was the right man at the right time for the job and he will leave some big shoes to fill.

Mayor Lee thanked Chief Cook for his service he has known Chief Cook for years and worked with him when he was an EMT and everyone had respect for him. When the idea of the Twin City Joint Fire Command came up we needed someone that could mend fences, who was progressive and had the respect of everyone. We couldn't have picked a better person than Gary. In the years that he has been Chief he has done a spectacular job. You will be leaving a legacy that is really going to be historically important to both cities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Teri Sathoff
Deputy City Clerk