

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday January 17, 2022. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, Kaitlyn Ekquist 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 (Zoom), Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Kris Noble, Executive Director of Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce introduced Justin Wiggins to the Council. Mr. Wiggins purchased the Midland States Bank Building at 302 1st Avenue Sterling. Wiggins stated the Bank will continue to work out of the main floor while the five upper floors will be developed into apartments. The project will be called Riverview Lofts and there will be a website coming soon. The name of Wiggins' company is Lee Development, Wiggins states that the apartments will be one and two bedroom and they will be partially furnished.

Shirley Sharp, 2109 10th Avenue was extremely angry about the cul-de-sac at the end of 10th Avenue not being plowed. Sharp stated that not only was it not plowed but that the city plow driver piled snow there. Sharp stated that since the City forced the owner to put the cul-de-sac that it should be maintained by the City. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that this is private property and that is the reason it does not get plowed. The driver did not dump snow in the cul-de-sac, the plow blade was raised which left snow there. City Manager Shumard stated that this is a temporary cul-de-sac because the owner planned to continue to develop the land, Shumard advised the Council that there cannot be a dead end after certain length road, therefore a temporary cul-de-sac is required. Sharp complained that the garbage trucks, ambulances and fire trucks all use it and it should be maintained by the City. Alderman Wise asked City Manager Shumard to investigate the matter with City Attorney Zollinger and report back to the Council.

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. Proclamation for National Mentoring Month.
- D. Proclamation Recognizing Martin Luther King Day.

E. Pay Request #6 to Martin and Company for 1st Avenue in the amount of \$312,7563.09.

Motion seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Johnson, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chavira introduced Officer Lucas P. Nease to the Council, Nease was sworn in by City Clerk Sathoff.

Police Chief Chavira presented officer Maggie Ellmaker with the 2021 Cadet Thorpe Officer of the Year Award. Chavira stated that one of the things he wanted to do when he was appointed as Chief was to reinstitute the Officer of the Year Award. Cadet Thorpe was Chief when Chavira was hired, his leadership style influenced Chiefs Potthoff, Morgan and Chavira. Since Chief Thorpe was so important to the foundation of the Sterling Police Department Chavira felt it was right to name the award after him. Nominations were made by the everyone in the department and it was obvious that Officer Ellmaker was the clear choice. Chavira stated the true measure of a leader is influence, nothing more nothing less. Chavira stated that Ellmaker influences all personnel, sworn and non-sworn to be better professionals.

Mayor Lee thanked Officer Ellmaker for her service, and everything she has done for the City of Sterling as well as the citizens of Sterling.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01-02 Authorizing the Issuance of not to Exceed \$27,500,000 Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A, Providing the Details of such Bonds and for an Alternate Revenue Source and the Levy of Direct Annual Taxes Sufficient to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Such Bonds, and Related Matters; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Bob Vail with Bernardi was in attendance via Zoom, Mr. Vail presented the proposed the following time line of events; January 25th the City should receive the bond rating and insurance quotes. On January 31st interest rates would be locked in. Alderman Wise asked what the current rate is, Vail responded that the current rate is 2.56%. Alderman Wise thanked City Manager Shumard and staff for bringing this to the council. Wise stated that by doing this property owners will appreciate this as it will relieve this burden off of them. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01-03 Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022b in an Aggregate Principal Amount not to Exceed \$8,000,000 for the Purpose of Financing

Various Public Infrastructure Projects Including Stormwater and Road Improvement Projects and Paying Certain Costs of Issuance of The Bonds, and Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Said Bond; seconded by Alderman Martin. Bob Vail stated the interest rate for this type of bond is currently 2.1%. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01-01 Adopting a City of Sterling Pension Obligation Bond Policy; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Refer to the Planning Commission for Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments for Review and Consideration; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin gave kudos to Public Works for the clearing of the snow from the recent storm.

Alderman Martin asked City Manager Shumard if there was a draft proposal from the developer for the riverfront. Shumard advised that the proposal was just recently received and sent to Attorney Zollinger for review.

Alderman Elston asked Finance Director Cindy Von Holten when the budget study sessions would begin. Von Holten stated that the study sessions will begin immediately following the February 7th Council meeting.

Alderman Wise echoed Alderman Martin's statement praising Public Works for their snow removal.

Prior to adjourning Mayor Lee stated he had a few points he would like to make;

- He wished Alderman Wilen a happy birthday.
- He stated that City Manager Shumard is finalizing the Riverfront Committee.
- Housing is an issue and Heather Sotelo is working on it aggressively
- SIDC sold the WACC house.
- He attended the ribbon cutting for the VA Clinic.
- Budget sessions and Strategic planning will be happening soon.

- There will be an ARPA committee meeting soon.
- City Clerk Sathoff has been working on permit fees to make sure they are in line with other municipalities.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk