

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 1, 2021. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter and Jim Wise. Absent: Christine Wilen. Alderman Martin was present but unable to vote due to audio issues.

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, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

City Manager Shumard, Police Chief Chavira, Alderman Johnson, and City Clerk Sathoff were present in the council chambers, everyone else attended via Zoom. The meeting was recorded and will be kept on the city hard drive. All members in attendance could hear the other members in attendance.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes.
- B. Approval of Plan Commission Minutes.
- C. Approval of Bills and Payroll.
- D. Resolution R2021-2-3 MFT Supplemental Resolution for 2020.

Motion seconded by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Elston questioned the cost of the Twin City Dispatch, she stated this is lower than the normal cost for dispatch services, City Manager Shumard informed the Council that this was due to funds received from the CURES grant. Alderman Elston also stated she was happy to see the payment for the riverfront signage. Shumard indicated that the signage is currently at Public Works and will be installed in the spring. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Alderman Martin unable to vote due to audio issues.

Mayor Lee Removed from the agenda, Item 8A, Ordinance 2021-2-2 vacating a Portion of Harvey Drive Adjacent to Lynn Boulevard.

Alderman Elston inquired if the next meeting would be on Monday February 15<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>, it will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> due to the Presidents Day Holiday. Alderman Elston also thanked Chief Chavira and Superintendent of Public Works, Brad Schrader, for working with her on getting vehicles moved for plowing.

Mayor Lee thanked Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader and the Public Works crews for the work they have done cleaning the streets, Mayor Lee stated that they have done a phenomenal job with each storm. Mayor Lee also thanked Chief Chavira and Chief Dettman for the work their departments have done, he noted that with storms come additional responses for each department.

Meeting adjourned to a budget study session at 6:39 pm.

Manager Shumard reviewed the following funds:

- Stormwater Management Fund – The funds for this account come from the ½% sales tax. The major projects for this fund will include 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue improvements as well as a detention pond in the Meadowlands Business Park. The current detention pond is not large enough to accommodate the build out that has occurred out there. The projects that have been completed out of this fund include Northland detention pond, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Miller, Douglas Park/Lynn Blvd/Roundabout, Dillon Phase I and II, West 6<sup>th</sup> and Harry Kidd Field. There are a few potential future projects including, East 19<sup>th</sup> west of Freeport Road, Sinnissippi Townhome area, West 16<sup>th</sup> curb and gutter, Woodburn and Scheid Park area, West 5<sup>th</sup> and North Avenue. We are predicting to end the year with \$1.5 million in the fund, by the end of next year we anticipate it being down to a zero balance.
- NWSW Redevelopment Fund – This was established by court order during the bankruptcy, CGH still contributes funds annually based on savings made from city issued bond. We have purchased interpretive signs that will be installed in the spring, Willett Hofmann has been asked to have the pedestrian bridges sourced for the walkway.
- TIF Lincolnway and Lynn - This TIF is where Kohls and Pet Smart are located. The bonds were reissued in 2020 at a slightly lower rate saving some money. For the most part this is an in and out fund.
- TIF Central Business District – This is the original downtown TIF, this is where County Market and Library Plaza are located. The EAV was \$1.7 million in 1984, the current EAV is \$3.4 million. This is the final year for this TIF. The balance of the funds will be used for Central Park improvements.
- TIF Rock River – This was formed after the NWSW bankruptcy to help Sterling Steel reestablish the Mill area. The primary expense for this fund is the bond payments. City Manager Shumard stated he would like to get an extension for this TIF, the extension would generate an additional \$600,000 a year for the next

twelve years. This money could be spent in the downtown area and the riverfront area.

- TIF Central Business District East – This was created to assist with Lawrence Lofts project. This is a “pay as you go” TIF as there was no bond issued. The developers are reimbursed as we go along.
- CGH Medical Center Bond Budget – This fund operates as an in and out fund.
- Special Service Area – This fund consists of Greenridge and Tori Pines. Green ridge has closed. Due to sub-standard roads installed by the developer, Tori Pines has agreed to pay an additional assessment that was escrowed with the city. The balance is \$41,500. That money will be put toward road repairs this year and the fund will be closed out.
- Fire Pension – This fund is stable; we have one additional firefighter on the fund, but we did lose a surviving spouse. We continue to take in more than we put out with this fund.
- Trust Committee Fund – This fund has a balance of \$1,200 for future Veteran’s Park, possibly on the riverfront.

City Manager Shumard stated that there are concerns about cuts to the Local Government Distributed Fund. The other issue he has concerns with is the personnel step and grade pay plan. Many of the communities around us have provided increases to their employees. Shumard stated that something will need to be done for the remainder of this year and next year will need to be taken into consideration. City Manager Shumard stated that the Council requested that we do not fall behind in pay scales again after the study was completed by GovHR, Shumard advised we are at a risk for doing that. There are 2 union contracts up for negotiation and another department requesting to bargain.

Mayor Lee advised the Council that he sent an email with a State House Briefing from IML regarding the Bills that are coming up.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk