

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. 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, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Mohr, Interim Chief Michael Dettman and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Mayor Lee, City Manager Shumard, Deputy Chief Jeff Mohr, 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 Bills and Payroll.

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

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-2-4 Annexing certain territory contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision – Group 14); Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Martin, Wilen, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-2-2 to Refer Consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision - Group 15) to the Plan Commission; Seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Martin, Wilen, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-2-2 Vacating a Portion of Harvey Drive Adjacent to Lynn Boulevard; Seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Martin, Wilen, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-2-4 Resolution No. 2021-02-04, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Funding Agreement with IHDA for the Strong Communities Program Grant; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Martin, Wilen, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Deputy Fire Chief Dettman requested the public to assist in digging out fire hydrants, the few minutes it takes to dig out the hydrant in your area could save the fire department valuable time in an emergency.

Alderman Wise asked Superintendent of Public Works, Brad Schrader, how the cleanup of the snow in the downtown area was progressing. Schrader advised that he had crews working at night to clean up the snow in the downtown area.

Mayor Lee complimented the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments for responding to calls and continuing to work in harsh weather conditions.

Meeting adjourned to a budget study session at 6:47 pm.

Manager Shumard reviewed the following funds:

- Sterling Industrial Development Commission – SIDC controls land sales in the meadowlands, owns the incubator and provides funds to the GSDC. This fund remains steady. Revenues are down from loss of rent due to COVID-19. The expenses are down 19%. CDAP funds were not spent and \$208,000 were loaned to small businesses.
- Civil Defense – This fund has a separate levy, it maintains the storm sirens and is in place to protect the public from natural disaster as well as provide assistance in case of a disaster. Revenues are down due to the State replacement Tax being lower. Expenses include the replacement of batteries for several of the storm sirens. Projected fund balance is \$93,587. There will be a need in the future to install another siren for the annexed properties.
- CGH Medical Center 2021A Bond Fund – This operates as an in and out fund for the repayment of a refinancing bond. The bond was issued for the purpose of funding a portion of CGH's IMRF pension liability. This is a 21 year term bond that is callable in 2030.
- CGH Medical Center Bond 2021 Bond Fund - This operates as an in and out fund for the repayment of a refinancing bond. The bond was issued for the purpose of

financing the costs of various capital improvements and upgrades. This is a 19 year term bond that is callable in 2030.

- Sewer – Revenues are down 3.8% mainly due to the suspension of collecting late fees. We are continuing to save for a future plant and dredging the lagoon. Goals for FY 21-22 include setting aside \$650,000 for the future plant, continuation of the RedZone inspections, continuation of the sump pump/roof drain separation grant program, continuation of treatment of the wastewater lagoon and sewer separations on Avenue E.

Sewer rate changes are proposed for FY 21-22, the base rate would increase to \$14.50 (.50 cent increase) and \$4.1 per 100 cubic feet (.10 cent increase). This would be an average increase of \$1.20. In 2019 the regional average was \$45.56, this rate increase will still keep us 5% below the 2019 regional average.

- Solid Waste – Revenues are down almost 2%, again this is due to the suspension of late fees. Expenses remained relatively the same. State Replacement tax is down 18% from last year and the late fees are down 30%. There will be a \$0.70 increase to cover the contractual increase of 3%. The contract with Republic Services expires June 30, 20208
- Police Pension – There is an increase in revenues by 3.9%, the expenses were down 1.1%. In 2020 the fun was 55.74% funded.

At 6:58 pm Alderman Stauter made a motion to move to executive session to discuss Employment/Appointment Matters: 5 ILCS 120/2 allows public bodies to hold closed meetings to consider the following employment or appointment-related topics:(1) "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Stauter, Martin, Wilen, Johnson and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the regular Council meeting at 7:58 pm; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Closed session adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.