

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday February 22, 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, 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.

Mary Karlson, 2004 15th Avenue Sterling, would like to bring the council's attention to a residence near her house that has been deemed a nuisance property. Karlson stated that a dog that was visiting the "nuisance residence" attacked a neighbor dog and killed it. Karlson was upset that the dog and owner were not held responsible. Karlson stated that the occupants of the "nuisance residence" have been known to pass out in neighbor's yards and create a disturbance. Chief Chavira advised Karlson that he will contact her in the morning once he was able to obtain more details. Karlson stated that they have been living with the situation for 2 years, however, they have not called the police department nor have they brought it up until now.

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.

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution R2022-02-03 Authorizing a letter of objection to the Whiteside County Board relating to a request for rezoning from Martin Kapp (R2-SPU to I-1) and authorizing a letter of objection to reclassification for the property at 3818 River Road, Sterling. (PIN #300022); seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated that the concern of the Plan Commission was that once it is zoned industrial that would open the door for any industrial business to move into the residential area. Another concern for the commission was that River Road was not built to handle truck and semi traffic. The owner of the property did not appear at the Plan Commission meeting. There was a member of the public at the meeting objecting to the zoning change. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve the Pay Request #1 (final) to Martin and Company for the Public Works addition in the amount of \$214,014.80; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve waiving the bid process and authorize the purchase of rolling overhead doors from Raynor in the amount of \$30,242.00; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve waiving the bid process and authorize the purchase and installation of windows and interior doors from Dixon Glass in the amount of \$29,902; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Wendler Engineering Services for engineering services for Tori Pines Subdivision road reconstruction; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve an amendment to the Employee Classification and Compensation Plan; seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

City Manager Shumard advised the City Council on the following items;

- Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader and City Manager Shumard will be meeting with Strand to discuss the draft proposal they presented in regards to Griswold Avenue.
- The next Council meeting he will have updates on the sign at Avenue G and West 3rd Street.
- The next Council meeting will also include recommendations for appointment to the Riverfront Committee.
- City Manager Shumard reminded the Council and City Staff that the strategic planning session will be on March 14th.
- There will be a bid opening for riverfront lighting and security on March 24th.

Alderman Elston inquired about the status of the Western apartments, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated that insurance company and the owner of the property would both like to have the structure demolished. Currently the property is still involved in a criminal and civil lawsuit. As soon as the courts are finished with the property it can be demolished.

Alderman Martin thanked the Public Works Department, there was a water main break on Maple Lane. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader was out of town and Justin Schaver handled the incident without fail in his absence. Martin stated it is nice to be able to have people in place that can effectively handle an emergency in Schrader's absence.

Mayor Lee stated that Sauk Valley Community College is looking into establishing a police academy. Currently there are five locations in the state that police officers can be sent to for training and it is difficult to get trainees into those academies.

Alderman Wise advised the Council and staff that it has been five years to the day that Attorney Zollinger first notified the railroad about the intentions of redoing Wallace Street. Alderman Wise stated that the day after NWSW stated they were closing their doors the City started working on developing the riverfront. Wise asked that everyone keep in mind that the City staff continues to work on this every day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm to the budget study session.

City manager Shumard reviewed the following funds:

- Motor Fuel Tax Fund – Revenues are up 29.4% due to the \$0.19 increase that was in effect 7/1/2020, the one time Rebuild Illinois grant that will be used towards LeFevre. The projected balance for April 2023 is \$1,688,365.
- Municipal Band Commission Fund – Allen Lee was present to answer any questions. Revenues are up 16.5%, the projected fund balance for April 2023 is \$166,209. Allen Lee thanked Finance Director Cindy Von Holten and Mary McCormick for all of their assistance. Lee stated McCormick has been a great deal of help.
- SIDC Fund – SIDC controls land sales, owns the incubator and provides funds to GSDC. Revenues are up 29.4% due to land sales.
- IMRF Fund - this is the retirement fund for the employees that are not sworn police officers or sworn firefighters. IMRF submits a new rate to the City every calendar year, the 2022 rate is 5.3%. This fund has been overfunded for quite a

few years, we continue to draw the balance down.

- Social Security Fund – Revenues are up 3.4% and expenses are up 3.8%. There is a surplus in this fund, this will be drawn down in another year to where it should be.
- Solid Waste Fund – This fund includes residential trash collection and recycling. Currently looking to purchase a clean fill site for internal use. The current site is at capacity. There will not be a rate change this year.
- ARPA Grant Fund – This fund is the money that will be received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. We have until December 2024 to obligate the funds in this account. All funds must be spent by December 2026. The total the City will receive is \$1,996,161. The ARPA committee have several ideas they have been considering, some of them include; Air exchanged improvements in City buildings, Sterling Theater roof, Mural restorations, downtown music system, housing needs, meadowlands retention pond, indoor farmer’s market renovations, retail incubator project, SVCC impact program, relining of sanitary lines. The committee has discussed not establishing new or recurring expenses with the one-time funds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk