

On Monday March 14, 2022 the City of Sterling City Council and staff were in attendance at Champs Banquet Facility at 9 East 3rd Street, Sterling, IL for a strategic planning session. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were 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, Library Director Jennifer Slaney, Assistant Director of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies Staff present were Mel Henrikson and Allie Hoebing.

The purpose of Strategic Planning is to know the future direction of the City, how the City will get there, how the City will know if it is successful and learning to be flexible while working towards the goals.

After an introduction of all who were present there was a brief discussion in reference to the 2015-2019 strategic plan as well as the interviews that were conducted with the Council members prior to the meeting. The following items were the themes from the council interviews

- Evaluating housing options
- Focus on infrastructure and prioritizing needs
- Creating and enhancing a business-friendly environment
- Reversing depopulation
- The priorities for the riverfront redevelopment

The group broke into smaller groups to discuss the vision for the future. Each group discussed their visions with the group as a whole. Strengths, Weaknesses, opportunities and challenges to the community was then discussed by the group.

The smaller groups worked on short and long-term goals. Each group discussed their goals with the group as a whole, these goals were labeled by the group as routine or complex in nature.

Mel Henrikson and Allie Hoebing will compile all of the information and work with the City Manager and Senior staff on that information. Once that is completed a draft report will be sent to the City for review, once that is approved then a final report will be sent to the City.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk