

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday April 4, 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.

Jim and Kay Ferris, 1408 Avenue D, requested the Council reconsider putting a sidewalk on the east side of Avenue D when the road is reconstructed. Mr. and Mrs. Ferris gave a presentation on where the sidewalk would be in conjunction with their property. The sidewalk will come very close to their front door and their patio, they were concerned that the sidewalk would lower the property value as well as interfere with their privacy.

Jackie Higgins, 310 West 14th Street, also requested the Council reconsider the placement of the sidewalk. Ms. Higgins just purchased her property, she stated she would not have purchased the home had she known that a sidewalk was going to be placed there. Ms. Higgins said her fence would have to come down and she is concerned about her property values as well.

Tom Brackemeyer, 1512 5th Avenue spoke to the Council about several areas of the City, he commended the City for the work that has been done to date. Brackemeyer is requesting the City look at placing marked cross walks at LeFevre and 1st Avenue for the hospital and sidewalks be installed on 4th or 5th Avenue north of East 19th Street.

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. Resolution No. R2022-04-06 to close Fourth Street for Memorial Day Celebration.
- D. Personnel Manual Revision.
- E. Proclamation recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Motion seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Alderman Wilen questioned the payment to WACC for \$40,000. Finance Director Cindy Von Holten stated that this was the final payment for the house that was built. Alderman Wilen would like to see a copy of the invoice, Von Holten will provide that information. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Johnson, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee read the Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to representatives from the YWCA.

Chief Dettman introduced firefighters Nicholas Simpson, Nathaniel Bitterman and Austin Ewing. All three firefighters took the oath of office.

At 6:58 pm Mayor Lee opened a public hearing for the budget. There were no public comments regarding the budget nor were there comments from the City Council. Mayor Lee closed the public hearing at 6:59 pm.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the contract to demolish 1008 Ash Avenue to Curt Poff, dba CP's Demolition, Sterling, Illinois, in the amount of \$4,000.00; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to waive the Bid Process and Approve Low Quote for Framing, Drywall and Ceiling at Central Memorial Park to Koja Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$38,020; Seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to waive the Bid Process and Approve Low Quote for Roofing at Central Memorial Park to McDermaid Roofing & Insulating Company in the amount of \$31,975; Seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt advised the Council that work to replace the elevator in the Coliseum will begin on April 11, 2022. Schmidt also stated that yard waste pickup started this week.

Chief Chavira informed the Council that the year-end report is out and the link has been emailed. The agenda contains the pdf version of the report. Chief Chavira thanked Melinda Morgan for the work that she put into the report. Chavira advised the Council that the police officers will be wearing the Autism patches on their uniforms to help bring awareness to the cause.

Attorney Zollinger has been working with the Union Pacific Railroad on Wallace street and they will come to an agreement this week.

City Manager Shumard stated the City hosted the CEO class in the morning, the class was great to work with. Work will begin on the National building this week and construction will continue on the Public Works building next week.

Alderman Elston asked Executive Director of Sterling Main Street, Janna Groharing, how the Sip into Spring event went. Groharing stated that the event was a success and Sterling Main Street made twice as much money as they have in previous years. Groharing reminded everyone of the car show scheduled for May 1st.

Alderman Ekquist stated that she appreciated Mr. and Mrs. Ferris's presentation. Ekquist stated she approved of omitting the sidewalk on the east side of Avenue D.

Alderman Wise agreed that keeping one sidewalk on the west side of Avenue D is sufficient. Alderman Martin agreed, in driving around the neighborhood these two yards will be disrupted, he would like to retain the no parking on the east side of the road so children are not crossing the road to the park.

Alderman Wilen and Johnson agreed that the sidewalk on the west side is adequate, there is no need to put one on the east side.

Alderman Elston questioned if no sidewalk is placed on the east side would the sidewalk north of West 15th Street come out, City Manager Shumard stated that sidewalk would come out. Elston would like to see continuity, she does not want children in and out of the street due to lack of sidewalks, she said Johnson Avenue is just as narrow and they have sidewalks on both sides of the street. Alderman Elston asked if there would be a policy written for this or would the Council have to decide on a case by case basis.

Alderman Wise would like to have a policy in place for the future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk