

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 3, 2021. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: John Stauter.

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.

Mayor Lee, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Wise, Alderman elect Kaitlyn Ekquist, City Manager Shumard, Police Chief Chavira, Deputy Chief Dettman 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.
- C. Resolution No. R2021-05-13 to declare Election Results.
- D. The Sterling American Legion is conducting its annual poppy campaign for local veterans in nursing homes May 29, 2021.
- E. Sterling Noon Rotary request to use Sterling Marketplace on July 26, 2021 and have fees waived.

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

City Clerk Sathoff administered the oath of office to Jim Wise and Kaitlyn Ekquist for the office of Alderman at Large and to Josh Johnson for the office of Third ward.

City Clerk Sathoff administered the oath of office to Police Officers Jamie Russell and Bronson Russell.

City Clerk Sathoff administered the oath of office to Firefighters Jeff Kimpel and Eric Behrens.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve compensation for Deputy Fire Chief Michael Dettman for the interim Chief position in the amount of \$175 per week retroactive to

September 2020; seconded by Alderman Martin. Former Fire Chief Cook retired in 2020. Since his departure, Deputy Chief Dettman has been handling the duties of Deputy Chief and Interim Chief of the Sterling Fire Department. The cities of Sterling and Rock Falls conducted a search for a new Chief. The first candidate offered the Chief's position withdrew. The cities were unable to agree upon an offer to the next candidate. Sterling is awaiting a decision from Rock Falls on how to proceed. The extended time has persisted much longer than anticipated. Mayor Lee thanked Deputy Chief Dettman for all his hard work and stated that he hopes the Twin City Joint Fire Command can continue. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve paying Wastewater employees \$250 per week spent on call; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Currently, wastewater employees are given \$600 a year for being on call to respond to outages and alarms at the lift stations and treatment plant, which requires them to be always available during their rotation. At Wastewater, there have been five people available for the rotation, meaning employees were making \$55-\$60 per week they were required to be on-call. Currently, due to retirement and restrictions, only three people are covering on-calls. If that continued, that would work out to \$17 per week. Motion carried.

A survey of other communities was done, and while there are several different methods of paying on-call, it was found the average on-call compensation was over \$200 per week. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Reappoint Cindy Von Holten to the Fire Pension Board; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to proclaim May 15th as Police Memorial Day and May 9 - 15, 2021 as Police Officers Week; seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Mayor Lee noted that the City of Sterling has an outstanding police force. Mayor Lee thanked Chief Chavira for the dedication and professionalism of the police department staff. Chief Chavira thanked Mayor Lee and the Council for the support the department receives. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and accept the low quote to demolish and remove the former Wastewater Treatment Facility at National Manufacturing; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Award Bid to Martin and Company for 1st Avenue Reconstruction in the amount of \$2,486,500.19; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Wise asked where the funds for this project would be coming from, City Manager Shumard stated that the funds would come from the capital fund. Alderman Martin asked if the scope of work included signage south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. City Manager Shumard advised that the appropriate signage would be included. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve the purchase 2021 International HV507 International Chassis through the Illinois State Bid in the amount of \$76,909.00; seconded by Alderman Johnson Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to waive the Bid Process and purchase a dump body and related plow truck equipment as proposed from Monroe Equipment in the amount of \$65,721.00; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to waive the bid process and purchase three fire apparatus in the amount of \$619,000; seconded by Alderman Ekquist. Alderman Wise asked Deputy Chief Dettman how much weight the platform will hold. Deputy Chief stated that it will hold 1,000 pounds when it is not flowing water and 500 pounds when it is flowing water. Alderman Wise asked City Manager Shumard where the funds will come from to purchase the apparatus, Shumard stated the funds will come from the capital fund reserves. Mayor Lee commended City Mechanic, Ben Babin for the work he does at Public Works, Mayor Lee stated that Babin was an asset in researching the purchase of these trucks. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approval of Resolution No. R2021-05-14 authorizing the Mayor, with the assistance of the City Manager to select a supplier which will select the new supplier contract, including the energy rate and term; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Wise requested that clean energy be given consideration in the selection process. City Manager stated that there are other communities involved in making decision. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to waive the bid process and accepting the low quote from MOST Plumbing and Mechanical in the amount of \$108,195 for a new air handler and condenser and associated work to remove the old units and install the new units; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Deputy Chief Dettman

City Clerk Sathoff reminded the alderman that there is a Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce annual dinner on May 27<sup>th</sup> and they would need to RSVP.

Deputy Chief Dettman thanked the Mayor, the Council and City Manager for approval of all the items on the agenda.

City Manager Shumard advised the Council that Illinois Senate Bill 298 is proposing changes in the TIF legislation. Currently TIFs are automatically twenty-three years, and they can be extended an additional twelve years. This bill will change the twenty-three years to ten years and reduce the twelve-year extension to five years. City Manager Shumard stated that TIFs are a valuable tool, he encouraged the Alderman and the community members to reach out to legislators.

City Manager Shumard stated that the Lincoln Highway Business District Eligibility Study and Business District Plan and the Lincoln Highway Redevelopment Project Area Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Report and Redevelopment Plan and Project have been filed with the City Clerk and are available for inspection.

Alderman Johnson stated that the CEO trade show and the Sterling Main Street Car Show were both a success.

Alderman Wise thanked the community for reelection, he stated he is looking forward to working with the Mayor, Department Heads, City Manager, and the members of the Council to keep moving the community forward.

Alderman Elston welcomed Alderman Ekquist and congratulated Aldermen Johnson and Wise on reelection.

Alderman Martin congratulated Aldermen Johnson and Wise on reelection and welcomed Alderman Ekquist. Alderman Martin then stated that in the twenty-seven years he has spent on the council he has never spent this amount of money at one meeting. Alderman Martin thanked all the previous alderman for putting the City of Sterling in a position to take care of the departments needs.

Alderman Wilen welcomed Alderman Ekquist and congratulated Aldermen Johnson and Wise on reelection.

Mayor Lee stated he agreed with Alderman Martin, he is thankful for the hard work of previous City Councils. Mayor Lee thanked the City Staff for their hard work and dedication. Mayor Lee welcomed Alderman Ekquist and congratulated Aldermen Johnson and Wise on reelection.

Alderman Ekquist stated she is very thankful to the residents of the City of Sterling for electing her, Ekquist thanked the Mayor, the Council members, and the City Staff for welcoming her. She stated she was thankful to be a part of planting trees with the staff for Arbor Day and being a part of the Sterling Main Street Car Show.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk