

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:50 pm on Monday, May 17, 2021. (There was a delay to the start of the meeting due to technical difficulties with Zoom) Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise.

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 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. 2021-2022 MICA Insurance Renewal Premium.

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

Alderman Wise made a motion to award low bid to Fischer Excavating, Inc. of Freeport for 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue Drainage Improvements in the amount of \$1,493,921.75; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Elston questioned if there would be detours to allow patrons to get to Duis Center, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader advised that there will be detours and both lanes will not be shut down at one time. Alderman Wise asked if the residents in that area would be notified with a timeline, Schrader advised that the residents would all be notified. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve the Construction Management Agreement with Hibbard Builders, Inc. for site improvements and construction of a concession and restroom facility at Central Memorial Park; seconded by Alderman Johnson. City Manager Shumard stated this will allow Hibbard Construction to act as a general contractor and bid out separate portions of the project allowing to them to get quotes on individual

projects as opposed to getting a quote for the project as a whole. Alderman Wise inquired if this work would be done in phases, Shumard stated no this will all be done in one phase. The scope of work will include the perimeter path, tree removal, lighting, small water area and the concession and restroom. Work will not be done to the seating area or the band shell. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local 722 for back wage adjustment; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the request to waive the bid process and purchase park playground equipment from NuToys Leisure Products in the amount of \$98,467.00; Seconded by Alderman Wilen. Alderman Johnson stated that a lot has changed since the park equipment was budgeted for in 2019, there were no organizations pushing for the completion of the warrior course. Johnson stated that Westwood Sports Complex has a warrior course and this would be a duplication, Johnson feels that the money could be better spent on the riverfront. Alderman Johnson would like to know if there is anything to show that this will be better utilized at Lincoln Park than bringing the riverfront park up to speed, he would like to know if there are any groups pushing for warrior equipment to be installed at Lincoln Park.

City Manager Shumard stated the neighborhood parks are in need of maintenance. The current equipment is out dated and in need of repair, replacement parts are difficult to find. Shumard stated that they are looking for newer more modern equipment that would be good for the neighborhood parks.

Alderman Elston stated that Westwood charges for admission, these are neighborhood parks and they need to be maintained.

Alderman Wilen stated that the school children uses this park daily and that it is an important part of the neighborhood.

Alderman Johnson stated that Kris Noble and the Chamber of Commerce has made the riverfront a priority, there are several groups that want walkable grass and bathrooms at the riverfront. Alderman Johnson stated the only one pushing for the warrior equipment at the neighborhood parks is the City and the City Council. Alderman Johnson would like to have City Manager Shumard reach out to the groups that are pushing for the completion of the riverfront park to see if they believe this money would be better spent on the riverfront opposed to neighborhood parks.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to table to request to waive the bid process and purchase park playground equipment from NuToys Leisure Products in the amount of \$98,467.00; Seconded by Alderman Ekquist Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, and Ekquist. Nayses – Aldermen Wilen and Wise. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to waive the bid process and purchase a new Federal Signal 2001-130 Series Outdoor Warning Siren from Braniff Communications in the amount of \$23,549; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to accept the increased cost related to Purchase of Public Works Dump Truck and Plow Body Equipment; seconded by Alderman Johnson Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Wilen and Wise. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Chief Chavira thanked the business in the area that showed support to the Police Department during National Police Officers Week. Chavira also stated that the detectives are following up on all leads in connection with the homicide that occurred on May 1, 2021.

City Attorney Tim Zollinger informed the City Council that the CDC issued updated guidance in regards to the wearing of masks. Vaccinated persons no longer need to wear a mask indoors, the State of Illinois is following CDC guidance. Mayor Lee asked Attorney Zollinger what that meant for the remote meetings. Zollinger stated meetings will need to be conducted in person when the executive order expires.

City Manager Shumard advised that the City launched the new website. The original website was outdated, no longer had support and was not ADA compliant. The new website has a fresh and inviting look. The website is easier to navigate and will be ADA compliant.

Alderman Wise asked about the 2040 comprehensive plan sessions that were held with community members. Shumard stated that the groups were either small or did not have a lot of input. Community participation is hard to get. Wise then asked what the progress is on the Twin City Joint Fire Command, Shumard stated that he has not received any response from Rock Falls, Alderman Wise insisted it is time to make a decision.

Alderman Elston thanked Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt for her help and keeping her updated on properties in her ward. Elston noted the flower beds in the downtown area look nice with the exception of one, there are several piles of dog feces in one particular bed. Chief Chavira stated that they have been in contact with a

dog owner who states it is not her dog and that she cleans up after her dog. Chavira stated they have to catch the dog owner in the act.

Mayor Lee stated that Sterling Police Officer Kyle Wycstandt and his wife welcomed a healthy baby boy. Lee also notified the Council that I.T. specialist Dennis Fellows will be retiring on May 28, 2021. Mayor Lee stated Fellows was an asset to the City of Sterling and was always happy to help. Lee thanked Fellows for his years of service and wished him well in his retirement, he will be missed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk