

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday June 6, 2022. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen (Zoom), Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, Assistant Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Owen Harrell, the IT director at Whiteside Area Career Center, requested a donation of \$1500 to assist with a program called PCs for People. PCs for People supply desktop and laptop computers to people that qualify financially. To qualify, recipients must be below the 200% poverty level or be currently enrolled in an income based government assistance program. Desktop computers are free and laptops are \$20. The \$1500 would cover the \$20 laptop fee, Harrell stated that several of the applicants have asked for assistance in paying the \$20 fee. Alderman Johnson stated that the program is not affiliated with the Career Center, it is a standalone program. Alderman Ekquist asked if ARPA funds could be used to assist with the program, City Manager Shumard stated it would qualify.

Tom Brackemeyer, 1512 5th Avenue Sterling, spoke to the Council about crosswalk safety at the intersection of LeFevre and 1st Avenue.

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. Pay Request #2 to Schindler Elevator Corporation in the amount of \$113,449.56
- D. Pay Request to RMI Steel in the amount of \$26,620.00
- E. Juneteenth Proclamation

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

Firefighter Vincent Morris and Brittney Ramos presented Elizabeth Palumbo with the Garrett Ramos Scholarship. Lieutenant Ramos started the Scholarship program through the firefighter's union in 2019, the scholarship was renamed in his honor.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2022-06-19 Amending Chapter 10 Article VIII to Provide for Updating of Provisions Related to Raffles; Seconded by Alderman

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

Chief Chavira stated the stock the squad was a success for the Salvation Army. Chavira thanked Tekla Martin and Brinkley for working at the Sauk Valley Community College Child Fair, he stated that was a success as well.

City Manager Shumard stated that the council chamber lights have been installed, however they have been installed incorrectly, the council chambers are still a work in progress. The bid opening for Wallace Street will be June 16th, the rail lines have been cut.

Alderman Wise asked City Manager what the timeline is for pedestrian path, Shumard said that the agreement has been signed, they are waiting on a meeting date to be set.

Alderman Elston thanked Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt for the houses that have been taken down, she inquired about the progress on Ash Avenue, Schmidt advised that they are contacting the contractor and if he is unable to meet the deadline they will move on to the next contractor. Alderman Elston noted that there were seventy properties that were contacted about grass complaints, she thanked the Code Enforcement Department for staying on top of that. She reminded everyone that Municipal Band is Wednesday at 6:15 and the “Pop-Up Markets” start Thursday the 9th.

Alderman Elston asked attorney Zollinger about the CGH signs that have been placed in the City right of ways. A large quantity of CGH Union signs have been placed in the right of way. Attorney Zollinger stated that as long as they are in the right of way, not causing a disruption to traffic flow or causing an obstruction they are allowed. Alderman Martin questioned if the number of signs can be limited since there are so many of them. Attorney Zollinger stated that you are not able to remove or limit some of the political signs as it will appear that sides are being chosen. Whatever decision is made or whatever is done must be strictly followed across the board.

Alderman Wilen stated she received an anonymous letter from a resident on Greenridge complaining about the parcel north of West 21st Street between 7th Avenue and 10th Avenue. The letter stated that the parcel is overgrown and an eyesore. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated that historically this and a few other parcels have been allowed to be “cash crop” the current unwritten policy is that the farmers are expected to cut and bale once a month. Schmidt stated these are large vacant parcels that have been allowed to do this for several years prior to her employment.

At 7:13pm Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn to executive session Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06 to review closed session

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

At 7:57pm Alderman Johnson made a motion to return to open session; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee approved a request from City Clerk Sathoff to destroy all executive session recordings older than 18 months that have written minutes. Mayor Lee also stated that all executive session minutes will remain closed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk