

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 19, 2023. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, Josh Johnson, Joseph Martin, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, 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.

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. City of God to hold a bucket brigade on June 24, 2023
- D. The Optimist Club of Sterling to hold a bucket brigade on July 15, 2023
- E. Rock River Hospice and Home to hold a bucket brigade on July 29, 2023
- F. Request from Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce to waive fees for Sterling Marketplace on August 4, 2023 for Hot Dog Days
- G. Resolution No. R2023-06-18 Regarding the .02% Building and Maintenance Property Tax Levy for the Sterling Public Library
- H. Resolution 2023-06-19 to Close Fourth Street for National Night Out at Grandon
- K. Pay Request #2 for Reconstruction of Tori Pines Subdivision to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$197,829.79

Mayor Merdian removed the following items from the consent agenda to allow the City attorney time to better review the agreements.

I. Ordinance 2023-06-11 MABAS Master Agreement between MABAS and Sterling Fire Department.

J. Ordinance 2023-06-12 MABAS Master Agreement between MABAS and CGH Medical Center/CGH Emergency Services.

Seconded by Alderman Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Ekquist, Martin and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chris Manson and his daughter, Lilly, with Ambulances for Ukraine provided an update on the Fire engine that was donated by the City of Sterling. Engine 1 is currently in Odesa Ukraine; the engine has responded to several missile strikes. Manson provided several pictures of the engine responding to calls as well as the journey it made across Poland and Ukraine to its home in Odesa. Mr. Manson presented Chief Dettman with the American flag that was flown on the truck during its journey as well as a Ukrainian flag and a couple of fire patches.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Brian Carradus to the Plan Commission; Seconded by Alderman Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, Strabala-Bright, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Resolution R2023-06-20 Authorizing the Police Department to sell surplus property; Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Strabala-Bright made a motion to Waive the bid Process and Accept a Quote from Sterling Chevrolet in the amount of \$14,455.00 After Trade Allowance for a 2023 Chevy Trailblazer; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion Award the Bid for the 2023 Street Construction Program to Martin and Company in the amount of \$515,57.57; Seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Martin asked about the timing of the grind and overlay on Avenue F, he is concerned that Avenue F has seen a lot of traffic due to the construction. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried

There was no motion made to Approve the Change Order #1 for Wallace Park Mini Pitch. The motion died.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Sterling Fire Department; Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Wise asked about the change in the residency requirement as well as possibly changing the length of probation to encourage retention and recruitment. City Manager Shumard explained the change in the residency requirement. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Dettman reported the flooring will be started at the Main Fire Station in the next week. The Bays have been painted and cleaned to prepare for the flooring. They were able to dispose of several items that were trash.

Chief Chavira reported they are completing backgrounds on two candidates. They hope to have the new hires in place and ready to attend the August academy. Chavira also reported National Night Out will be on August 1st at Central Park. He extended an invitation to all City Council members as well as City Staff to attend and participate in the National Night Out event.

Superintendent of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw stated they are working on pumps, they may have to replace or rebuild the current ones. The main transfer switch for the generator has failed and needs to be replaced, that will be done next week.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated they located the drain connection at Grandon and he has spoke to IDOT about making the connection. Concrete crews are working at Tori Pines on the curb and gutter. They continue to water the grass at Grandon.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reminded the Council members to submit their phone bill for reimbursement as well as their certifications for Sexual harassment training and cyber security training. Sathoff reminded everyone the July meeting will fall on the 3rd and we will be open. The offices will be closed on the 4th.

Attorney Zollinger reported that the building department has sent over two abandon properties to be pursued along with three code violators.

City Manager Shumard reported he met with IT and the Police department at Wallace park about the security cameras/system that will be installed at the park. Shumard reported that he and Mayor Merdian met with Representative Fritts to discuss issues that are affecting the City.

Alderman Martin reported the Municipal Band Concert was well attended, he stated there is something for everyone and hopes that more people will attend.

Alderman Strabala-Bright congratulated Sterling Main Street on Shoppes at Grandon as well as the first pop-up market of the season. Strabala-Bright reminded everyone of the Pop-up Market this Thursday.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the Municipal Band Concert as well as the Pop-up Market.

Alderman Wise stated he saw the Ahrens Fox fire truck at the main station, Wise stated there is an opportunity to restore the truck. The cost to restore the truck is a fraction of the City's reserves. Wise stated image is everything and we need to build up the image of the first responders.

Mayor Merdian stated she awarded the Key to The City to the guest conductor, she attended the Juneteenth celebration as well as the Sauk Valley Diversity Gala on Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk