

Mayor Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday July 7, 2021. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt (Zoom), Finance Director Cindy Von Holten (zoom), Police Chief Alex Chavira, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The meeting was recorded and will be kept on the city hard drive. All members in attendance could hear the other members in attendance.

Shirley Sharp addressed the council in reference to the previous discussions of decoupling the one ways. Mrs. Sharp stated the former chief of police said that it was easier for emergency vehicles to respond to an incident on the one way streets. Mrs. Sharp would like the Council take this into consideration before any decisions are made.

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 #1 for Former National Training Building Demolition Renovation to Gehrke Construction in the amount of \$25,648.20
- D. Close 500 block of Second Avenue for a Fall Fest Celebration by Amazing Grace Church from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

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

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Ordinance No 2021-07-18, Fixing a Time and Place for Public Hearing with Respect to the Lincoln Highway Business Development District; seconded by Alderman Wilen. City Manager Shumard advised the Council that this is the first time the City of Sterling has created a Business Development District (BDD). This area has been vacant for too many years and it will be good thing. Shumard continued that if the right retailers are brought to the area the community will not mind paying the additional 1% in sales tax. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-07-18 Accepting a grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Abandoned Residential Property Municipal Relief Program in the amount of \$20,000; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Elston thanked Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt for the work that has been put into these

grants and the improvements to the residence on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-07-19 Amending Chapter 6, Article I and Article II (alcoholic beverages) of the code of ordinances of the City of Sterling to create additional license classifications for Brew pub, craft distiller, and winery; seconded by Alderman Johnson. The Executive Director of Sterling Main Street, Janna Groharing advised the Council that the vision for The Mercantile Building is a restaurant/brewery. Groharing stated that by having this ordinance in place it will assist in attracting that type of business to the City of Sterling. Alderman Ekquist stated that this very proactive and she is happy to see it. Alderman Elston asked Attorney Zollinger if this would allow for the sale of growlers, he stated yes it would. Attorney Zollinger stated that a true craft brewery only sells their product, if the brew pub would like to have a full bar the ordinance provides for them to obtain a class E license. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee thanked the Police Department for their responses to multiple reports of fireworks they received over the weekend.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported that a subcontractor working for Commonwealth Edison damaged a sanitary sewer line in the area of the Dillon home and Broadway. The line is being bypassed at this time, Martin and Company will make the necessary repairs the morning of July 7, 2021 and it should be back in service by that afternoon. Schrader advised that Fischer is on schedule with the work being done on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Martin continues to work on the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, they will have to move the stop boxes and Civil will be doing that work.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported that they have a list of problem properties that will be demolished with the grant money they have received.

Attorney Zollinger reported that the census data has not been made available as of yet. When the information does become available the City may have to look at making changes in the wards. The redistricting will have to be done quickly to meet the deadline for the filing periods.

City Manager Shumard reported that Sterling Environmental gave the approval to resume work on at the National Training building. The National Waste Water building demolition should be able to proceed as well. There will be one change, the concrete will no longer be allowed to be considered clean construction.

City Manager Shumard advised Sterling High School will be taking the lead on the sidewalk project, the easements are in the process of being obtained and the engineering drawings have been done.

Shumard also advised that he has not received a response from Union Pacific. The last communication was done on June 15, 2021. Shumard stated that per a request from the last Council meeting he did speak to Bob Vail in reference to bonds. Vail stated that the net rate is approximately, 1.2% to 1.4%. Shumard stated we should strongly consider going this route.

Alderman Martin congratulated the Municipal Band on their July 4<sup>th</sup> performance.

Alderman Johnson reported on the progress of the Whiteside Area Career Center House. To finish the project it could cost an additional \$35,000 to \$45,000 bringing the total for the house to \$175,000 to \$185,000. Johnson suggested putting the house on the market now and selling it for what the City has in it. The new buyer could work with WACC on the finishes of their choice. City Manager Shumard stated that Public Works will put in the sidewalk and driveway to assist with the cost.

Alderman Elston thanked Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader for the flags that were put up around town. Elston thanked the Jaycees for the fireworks, she also reminded everyone of the Municipal Band performance on Wednesday at 7:30. Elston thanked Chief Chavira and the Police department for responding to fireworks complaints.

Alderman Ekquist reminded everyone of theater in the park this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:00 pm at Woodlawn Arts Academy. Ekquist also thanked the Jaycees for the fireworks as well the Sterling Farmers Market.

Mayor Lee thanked the Jaycees, stating they have done a phenomenal job.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk