

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday July 19, 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, Police Chief Alex Chavira, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

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 to Fischer Excavating for the 4th and 5th Avenue drainage project in the amount of \$97,329.15.
- D. Pay Request O6 Environmental in the amount of \$24,850.
- E. Tri Church request to waive fees for the use of Grandon Civic Center on 9/11/2021 for a Community Memorial Service.
- F. Pay Request #3 for 2020 Street Contract Program #2 To Martin and Company Excavating in the amount of \$88,040.90.

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

Mayor Lee recognized Alderman Joseph Martin for 25 years of service to the City of Sterling as the Fourth Ward Alderman, Mayor Lee stated that Martin provides institutional knowledge, he is progressive, he speaks truth to power and he is able to balance opposing views and bring people together. Martin has also served as the vice Mayor for several years.

Retired City Manager Steve Berley addressed the Council, Berley stated he was privileged to be the City Manager when Alderman Martin was sworn in as Alderman in 1995. Berley praised Martin for representing the City of Sterling with honor. Berley thanked the Mayor and the Council for doing an outstanding job he also praised City Manager Scott Shumard for representing the citizens of Sterling with distinction and honor. Berley thanked the City department heads and staff for the outstanding work they do.

Mayor Lee presented Alderman Martin and his wife, Doctor Mary Martin with a plaque thanking him for his years of service. Mayor Lee thanked Mary for supporting Alderman Martin.

Alderman Martin thanked the Mayor and the Council for the recognition, he stated he does not do it for the recognition he does it because of the love of the job and the community. Alderman Martin thanked his wife, Mary, she has supported him through elections and assisted with citizen calls and complaints. Alderman Martin stated he has made a lot of decisions in the last 25 years, however the best decision he ever made was marrying his wife. Alderman Martin stated in his career he has worked with;

- 25 Alderman
- 4 Mayors
- 4 City managers (of the 5 total City Managers)
- 2 City Attorneys
- 2 Directors of Finance
- 3 City Clerks
- 4 Police chiefs
- 3 Fire chiefs
- 2 Superintendents of Building and Zoning
- 4 Superintendents of Public Works
- 1 Superintendent of Waste Water

Martin said that more than anything else he contributes his success on the council to the great City employees. Martin thanked the employees and the Department heads for their hard work and assisting the Council in doing their job. Martin looks forward to working with all the employees to continue to move Sterling forward.

At 6:44 pm Mayor Lee opened the public Hearing for the Lincoln Highway Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District. Geoff Dickinson, Senior Vice President with SB Friedman was in the Council Chambers to address any questions. There were no questions or comments, Mayor Lee closed the public hearing at 6:45pm.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-07-19 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Real Property Located at 910 5th Avenue in an amount to equal eighty (80%) of the appraised value; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) 2022 Ford AWD Utility Police Interceptors for the Police Department from Kunes Country Auto Group was for a total amount of \$45,838.00; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Chief Chavira stated these will be marked patrol squads. Chief Chavira stated he hopes to have them in service by the end of the year. This is for the purchase of the two vehicles, there will be an additional expense to outfit the squad cars. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3, 2021; seconded by Alderman Wise. Chief Chavira stated that the National Night out will be from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The Police Department is requesting people show support in small neighborhood groups. Mayor Lee stated that Sterling Police has always made community relations a priority. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Chavira introduced the new IT employee, Andrew Chouinard. Chouinard is from Rock Falls, he is looking forward to assisting the City employees with their IT needs.

Superintendent of Public Works, Brad Schrader, gave the Council an updated report on the progress of the current road projects.

- Fischer is working on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Folkers the storm lines should be installed by the end of this week.
- City Crews completed the concrete work on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to LeFevre.
- City crews have finished 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Martin and Co. will be putting rock and the binder down.
- The walking path is being installed on Sixth Avenue.

City Manager Shumard reported that the State has a meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> for Route 2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Work should begin in August and they have the completion date set for November 30, 2021.

City Manager Shumard also stated that Route 40 from 15<sup>th</sup> street to the north edge of town will be one lane for 30 to 45 days for storm sewer installation. This work will be bid in January and should start in the spring of 2022.

City Manager Shumard stated that three words came to mind with Alderman Martin, pragmatic, a critical eye and community oriented. He thanked Alderman Martin for always having the best interests of the City in mind, Shumard stated he was looking forward to working with Martin for many years to come.

Alderman Martin stated he was speechless for a change and he thanked the Mayor the Council for the recognition he received. Alderman Martin wished the Mayor a happy birthday.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the Municipal Band performance on Wednesday at 7:30, the Pop up Market on Thursday, the Boat races this weekend as well as the air show in Rock Falls. Alderman Elston thanked Alderman Martin for his dedication to the Council and the Citizens of Sterling.

Alderman Wise thanked Alderman Martin for his 25 years of dedicated service, he is a great role model for younger and newer council members.

Mayor Lee again thanked Alderman and his wife Mary for his years of service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk