

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday August 2, 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, 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 # 9 to Martin and Company for Northland Mall Regional Detention Pond in the amount of \$12,146.75.
- D. Final Pay Request #9 To Civil Constructors for Dillon Avenue from West 11th Street to West 4th Street Phase II in the amount of \$6,103.64.
- E. Pay Request #1 to Martin and Company for 1st Avenue in the amount of \$258,723.44.

Motion 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 reappointment of Aurelio Gallardo to the Plan Commission; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Mayor Lee stated that when it is time to appoint or reappoint a member to a board, he contacts the department head as well as commission member to make sure the member is a good fit for the board. Alderman Elston thanked Mr. Gallardo for serving on the Plan Commission, she noted all commission members are volunteers, they are not paid and these are vital roles they play. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-08-20 Fixing a Time and Place for Public Hearing with Respect to the Lincoln Highway TIF; seconded by Alderman Wise. City Manager Shumard stated this needed to be redone because there was an error in the original legal description. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve waiving the bid process and accepting the proposal from Schindler in the amount of \$229,002.00 to replace the Elevator at City; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated that she requested bids from several elevator companies and only two were received. The bid from Otis did not include the full scope of work that was needed, their bid was for the elevator alone. Otis would require the City staff to act as the general contractor while Schindler would act as the general contractor. Schmidt stated the staff does not have the qualifications to act as the general. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the Purchase of the A9 Monsoon from RNOW INC with optional equipment in the amount of \$258,308.00; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that this sweeper has a larger hopper, the motor is twice the size and the water tanks are larger as well. The hopper is stainless steel with a lifetime warranty. The current sweepers are 2001 and 2007 Pelicans, the 2001 has quite a bit of rust. City Mechanic Ben Babin stated he will be attending training on the A9 Monsoon and will be able to make repairs that do not. This machine offers an eight inch hose that will allow for the catch basins to be cleaned twice as fast. The low bidder did not meet all of the bid specifications. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that it will be in the best interest of the City to purchase the A9 Monsoon. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to award the contract for the Avenue D and E Reconstruction to Martin and Company Excavating in the amount of \$498,387.47; seconded by Alderman Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to modify the Quitclaim Deed for the National Property; seconded by Alderman Wise. The original donation agreement stated that Stanley would be responsible for any remediation below the surface and the City would be responsible for remediation above ground. With this modification the City will be able to move forward with the project, Stanley will be responsible for everything east of the training building entrance. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Chavira reminded everyone of National Night Out on Tuesday August 3, 2021. Chief also stated that Hot Dog Days will be Friday August 6, 2021.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader updated the Council on the following projects.

- Route Two at Grandon - Illinois Department of Transportation is slated to start August 16th or 23rd.
- Sixth Avenue Bike path is done.
- Fourth and Fifth Avenues north of the high school has all of the Storm lines installed and it will be cored out next week.
- First Avenue had the water main replaced by Illinois American Water, Martin and Company is going to bring in additional crews to work on it.
- Fourth Avenue two blocks south will be rocked and paved.

Mayor Lee asked about the dead trees at Grandon, Schrader stated the contractor is working on this. One maple has been taken out and several of the other trees have been dead limbed.

Alderman Elston asked if the park equipment is in yet, Schrader stated the equipment is not in yet but the community builds are scheduled for the 20th and 27th.

Alderman Wise asked if there was a timeline for the project on Route 2, Schrader advised that they are projected to be done in November, Wise stated this could pose an issue with Martin and Company redoing the intersection at Fifth Street and First Avenue at the same time.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten advised the Council that she checked the revenue numbers for the first three months of the fiscal year, sales tax is up 28%, utility tax is up 11%, income tax is up 71% and replacement tax is up as well.

Attorney Zollinger advised the Council that there is a meeting with the Public Works Union on Tuesday August 3, 2021. This will be the eighth and most likely the final session. There should be a contract to present to the Council in the near future.

City Manager Shumard stated that the City of Sterling is entitled to \$1.9 to \$2.0 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This money can be used for various things such as training, however there are stipulations, it may not be used on general infrastructure projects. Alderman Wise stated he would like to form a committee to explore the best option for utilizing this money. Mayor Lee stated that since it involves economic aid he would like to include Sterling Today, The GSDC and the Chamber in the committee meeting.

City Manager Shumard stated that he spoke with Bob Vail and the soonest date that the City could close on bonds would be November 16, 2021. The City would need to look at the terms and to see how much we can afford to bond out. Alderman Johnson asked the City Manager if it would be possible to use the bond money for the riverfront project. The City Manager stated the funds that the City uses to pay back the bonds comes from the referendum money that has been committed to storm water and street projects.

City Manager Shumard, advised that The City continues to attempt to work with the UP Railroad.

Alderman Wilen stated that she has heard from citizens in the area of the Challand Middle School sports complex, that there a lot of parking issues. Ambulances have difficulty getting through. Wilen stated she is concerned about the WACC house, she would like to know if the decision to sell the house "as is" was made and who made that decision. City Manager Shumard stated that decision was not made yet and they are awaiting an appraisal of the property. Alderman Johnson stated that all work has stopped on the house due to school being out.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the last Municipal Band performance on Wednesday at 7:30, the Farmer's Market Saturday, as well as Hot Dog Days on Friday.

Alderman Ekquist stated that she had someone reach out to her about what could be done on the local level for mental illness due to COVID-19. Ekquist met with the president of the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI). Ekquist stated the president of NAMI suggested crisis intervention training, she would like to see if that would be something the Police Department would be interested in. Chief Chavira stated that the State of Illinois mandates a certain number of training hours. Over the last four to five years the Sterling Police Department has exceeded the number of mandated training hours, including crisis intervention training. Due to COVID the training events have slowed down over the last year however the classes are picking up again.

Mayor Lee inquired if there were classes that officers were unable to attend due to budgetary constraints, Chief Chavira stated that fortunately that has not been a problem.

Alderman Wise would like to recognize Mr. Brackemeyer in some way for his diligence in getting the sidewalk installed by the High school.

Mayor Lee asked Chief Chavira if there is something that can be done in reference to the parking on Seventh Street at Locust. The residents are parking closer and closer to the corner and it is causing traffic issues. Chief Chavira will speak to Deputy Chief Mohr about this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Teri Sathoff
City Clerk