

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday August 16, 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 Matthew Cole, City Manager Scott Shumard, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt (Zoom), Interim Fire Chief Michael Dettman, 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 to Strand Associates Inc. for the 2020 Stormwater Projects in the amount of \$29,656.28.
- D. Petition from The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a Shred Event November 6, 2021.
- E. Resolution R2021-08-19 To Close Streets for Fiesta Parade on Saturday, September 18, 2021.
- F. Pay Request #2 to Martin and Company for 1st Avenue in the amount of \$146,768.87.

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

Mayor Lee opened the public hearing for the Lincoln Highway Redevelopment Business District at 6:35 pm. There were no questions or comments nor was anyone from the public in attendance for the public hearing. Mayor Lee closed the public hearing at 6:36 pm.

Alderman Elston made a motion to Refer to Plan Commission 409 Avenue L; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Wise asked if the property has changed hands since the approval of the previous special use permit. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt advised the Council that the property is under the same ownership. Schmidt stated the previous special use required the owners to improve the lot to an impervious surface for stormwater runoff, that as well as a couple of other requirements have not been completed. Schmidt advised the Council that it is hard for staff to enforce the requirements of a special use permit once a business has been allowed to occupy the space. Alderman Wise stated this is an area that needs improvement and he hopes the Plan Commission will choose to recommend enforcing the original special use permit prior to authorizing the second special use permit. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Approve the Agreement between the City of Sterling and International Brotherhood Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of; seconded by Alderman Martin. City Manager Shumard stated this is a fair contract for everyone. Shumard stated this is a five-year contract, and it will bring the bottom end of the pay scale in line with the top end of the pay scale. The wages are comparative to the City of Dixon and slightly higher than the City of Rock Falls. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt advised the Council that the structure at 711 Avenue C was demolished last week, the lot has been graded and seeded. The property will be sold to the adjoining neighbors in the near future. Schmidt also stated there are 2 more properties that need to be demolished and the bid process for those will begin soon.

Police Chief Chavira stated the police department has two new officers that will be attending the Police Training Institute, he is waiting on a start date for that. Chief Chavira thanked everyone that attended the Hot Dog Days, he felt it was a success. Chief Chavira advised that Sgt. Weber will be holding a Pedal with the Police event on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

Interim Chief Dettman stated the two new firefighters will be graduating from the academy at the end of August. Chief Dettman brought the new tower truck to the council meeting for viewing.

City Clerk Sathoff advised the Council that the next meeting will be on September 7, 2021 as September 6 is Labor Day.

City Manager Shumard advised the Council that the lack of detour signage for the LeFevre and Locust Street closure has been addressed. Illinois Department of Transportation has been notified for the need of additional signage and they will be contacting Wendler. The message board at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Locust will be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Kris Noble from the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce thanked everyone for their participation in Hot Dog Days. The Chamber held their Steak Fry in the Country on August 5, they were able to raise \$18,000 on the dessert auction. Noble also informed the Council that there is a new grant that was announced called the "Back to Business" grant, the Chamber will assist businesses with applying for this grant. On August 11<sup>th</sup> the Chamber hosted a drive-thru job fair event. Forty-six business submitted job opening information, two hundred packets were made up and a total of forty packets were given out. Noble stated that the Chamber is aware of the lack of work force issues that we are facing in the area. The extra unemployment benefits end the first Saturday in September, between that and children returning to school, Noble is hopeful that will help with the lack of work force.

Alderman Wilen stated she has three properties in her ward that have property maintenance issues and she has been working with Amanda on those.

Alderman Elston stated that Hot Dog Days was a success, over 7,500 hot dogs were sold. The last Municipal Band concert was well attended, there were 536 people in attendance. Elston reminded everyone to attend the Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Alderman Ekquist reminded everyone of the Sauk Valley Chamber's Business after hours on Thursday at Sauk Valley Community College. Ekquist also advised that August 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last pop up market, there may be one scheduled in September depending on the weather.

Mayor Lee extended his congratulations to Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and City Manager, Deb Dillow and Superintendent of Public Works, Brad Schrader as they both have welcomed grandchildren into the world.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk