

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 21, 2023. Roll call. Present: Alderperson Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, Josh Johnson, Joseph Martin, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were City Attorney Matthew Cole, City Manager Scott Shumard, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief Michael Dettman, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt (Zoom), Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer, 1512 5th Avenue, handed out photos to the council in regards to the lack of cross walks and or marked cross walks. The intersections that are of concern to him are;

- 1st Avenue at CGH (LeFevre)
- 3rd Avenue and at LeFevre
- 7th Ave at LeFevre
- Avenue D and LeFevre

Mr. Brackemeyer also addressed a residence across the street from his house. The residence at 1509 5th Avenue has been posted as condemned since February 16, 2012. Brackemeyer questioned if the City is getting their tax money for the residence why hasn't it been taken care of.

Alderperson Wise asked City Manager Shumard about restrictions or reasons why the City could not but marked cross walks at the LeFevre Road intersections. City Manager Shumard shared a study with the City Council that states cross walks are not effective and they give a false sense of security.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes.
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll.

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

Mayor Merdian opened the public hearing for the Northland Mall Redevelopment Business District at 6:39 pm. Jeff Dickinson with SB Friedman stated his company conducted a study for Northland Mall, the study showed the area does qualify for the establishment of a business district. The second half of the study is a plan to guide the investments in the district for the 23-

year period. The plan has goals and objectives including a 1% increase in sales tax on anything purchased in the district. The budget for the business district is \$24 million. Alderperson Wise asked if this BDD could be amended to include the old Holiday Inn property. Dickinson stated this one could be amended or another one may be created for that area. Mary Carlson asked what the liability would be to the owner of the mall. City Manager Shumard stated prior to the actual adoption of the plan the City and the owner would meet and they would have to have a plan in place. Mayor Merdian closed the public hearing at 6:43 pm.

Alderperson Wise made a motion to Waive Bid Process and Accept Proposal from Bi-State Masonry in the amount of \$276,674.00 for Tuck Pointing and Masonry Repairs for City; Seconded by Alderperson Elston. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated she has been attempting to work with a local masonry company and they were unable to get us on the schedule. Schmidt has been working with Bi-State for the last year, they provided the City with a list of priorities in case it was decided that the work was not to be done all at once. The work will include replacing nine lentils at the basement level as well as sealing the brick. Alderperson Johnson asked if this was within budget, City Manager Shumard stated \$200K has been budgeted for. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to Authorize the Engine Rebuild on Fire Engine 5 in the amount of \$33,437.16 to Thompson Truck and Trailer of Sterling; Seconded by Alderperson Martin. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderperson Ekquist made a motion to Approve Ordinance No 2023-08-18 Authorizing the City of Sterling to Borrow Funds from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund; Seconded by Alderperson Elston. City Manager Shumard stated the RedZone expense has ended and this will take its place. With this money we will be able to re-line 30 miles of sanitary sewer lines as well as rebuilding some of the catch basins. Alderman Martin asked if there will be much of a disruption in traffic flow, Shumard stated no this work will be done manhole to manhole much like the televising that was done. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Martin, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Chavira reported two new officers reported to the academy yesterday. The officers should be on their own by the spring of 2024, this leaves two openings. Curls with Cops will be held on August 26, 2023 at Challand Middle School, it is a two-hour workout everyone is welcome to join. They will be testing for an eligibility list on September 23rd.

Chief Dettman reported their testing was completed on the previous Saturday there were seven applicants, four passed the written and of that four all passed the physical agility.

Superintendent of Waste Water Cory Bradshaw reported that a screw pump gear box will need to be repaired, he is hoping the issue is just the bearings.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported that he spoke with IDOT and they are planning on opening the bridge this week, they will be working at the intersection of 1st Avenue and 2rd Street for approximately 3 weeks. Public works crews have finished pouring the concrete for Platt Park Pavilion. The overlay projects will be starting this fall.

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported the demo at 612 West 3rd Street should start this week, this should be rather quick.

City Clerk Sathoff reported the food truck ordinance draft has been done by Attorney Zollinger, it is being reviewed and should be on the next council agenda.

City Manager Shumard reported the RFQs were received for the pavilion as well as the engineering for the riverfront.

Aldersperson Elston asked if the next Council meeting would be on Tuesday September 5th due to the 4th being a holiday, Clerk Sathoff confirmed the meeting will be on the 5th. Elston attended the business after hours, she congratulated Janna Groharing for being recognized at that event. Alderman Elston warned everyone to be vigilant about the heat warnings that have been issued for the coming week.

Aldersperson Wise stated 36 years ago Tiffany Boyer was murdered and in this time the person responsible has not been brought to justice. Tiffany's family deserves closure, he stated he hopes the police department will conclude their investigation and bring the killer to justice.

Mayor Merdian reminded everyone to sign up for Curls with Cops as well as the River Chase that. Mayor Merdian stated to stay cool and safe and reminded everyone the library is a cooling center if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk