

Mayor Lee called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday October 4, 2021. Roll call. Present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, Christine Wilen, Kaitlyn Ekquist and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt (Zoom), Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Alex Chavira, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

There were no communications from visitors.

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. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- D. Pay Request # 2 to Fischer Excavating for the 4th and 5th Avenue drainage project in the amount of \$157,520.95.
- E. Pay Request # 3 to Fischer Excavating for the 4th and 5th Avenue drainage project in the amount of \$373,606.51.
- F. Pay Request #3 for Former National Training Building Demolition Renovation to Gehrke Construction in the amount of \$29,205.90.
- G. Pay Request to Strand Associates Inc. for the 2020 Stormwater Projects in the amount of \$40,960.39.
- H. Resolution No. R2021-10-20 to close streets for Christmas Walk on Friday, December 3, 2021.

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

Mayor Lee read the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation and presented it to a representative from the YWCA.

Chief Chavira introduced Officer Harry Blomstrand to the Council, Officer Blomstrand is being promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Joel Hopkins from Hopkins & Associates was present via Zoom to give a brief presentation on the audit. There were no questions regarding the audit, and Mr. Hopkins thanked Finance director Cindy Von Holten and the finance staff for a problem free audit. Alderman Wise made a motion to accept the April 30, 2021 audited financial statements and place them on file; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10-25 Amending Provisions Applicable to Fire Prevention and Protection; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10-24 Approving the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study, and Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Lincoln Highway Redevelopment Project Area; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10-26 Designating the Lincoln Highway Redevelopment Project; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Ekquist made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10-27 Adopting Tax Increment Financing; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to Waive the Bid Process and Award Bid to Complete Electric for \$19,750.00 to upgrade the lighting at Dale Park; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that the work will start next year and will be done in the spring. City Mechanic, Ben Babin will fabricate the poles. There will be 10foot decorative lights with outlets on the bases. The string lights will be above the light poles. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to award the contract to demolish the structures at 602 W. 7th Street to Stichter Construction Company of Erie, Illinois, in the amount of \$11,675.00; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt stated that this structure has been an eyesore in the neighborhood, the funds will come from the Strong Communities Grant and the demolition will occur this year. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, Johnson, Ekquist and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to award the bid to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$35,769.80 to install the Riverfront Crossing; seconded by Alderman Johnson. 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 there is a bid opening scheduled for October 26, 2021 for the demolition of the residential structure located at 1802 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of the ARPA funds, totaling \$990,000 has been received.

Police Chief Alex Chavira reported that there are two community policing events coming up, the first one, Cops for Coats will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The second event is a Trunk or Treat that will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader gave reports on the following projects;

- The concrete has been completed on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue up to 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue at 4<sup>th</sup> Street is currently down to one lane while they bore for traffic signals.
- The island at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled to start in 3 weeks.
- NICOR is at 11<sup>th</sup> Street, from LeFevre.
- The west sides of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues have been completed.
- The east side of 5<sup>th</sup> have is partially done.
- Sewer and water have been hooked up at the WACC home.
- Concrete will be done in the next week or 2 at the WACC home.

City Attorney Tim Zollinger reported that the populations on the wards has come in from the census. The Council will need to address redistricting as Ward 4 is larger than the other three. This should be done before the end of 2021.

Mayor Lee requested that each Council member report on one item they learned at the IML Conference.

Alderman Martin stated that he learned that the cannabis revenues taken in by the State already supersede the liquor revenues. Another item Alderman Martin learned at the conference was that the infrastructure bill that is currently in front of Congress has a small chance of passing and if it does it will be at a lower rate and that will not benefit the City of Sterling.

Alderman Johnson stated he agreed with Alderman Martin on the cannabis, Johnson stated he also went to the downtown revitalization seminar and he was excited to hear about success stories.

Alderman Wilen stated she attended two of the criminal justice reform seminars and she is proud of our police department. Wilen stated Sterling police department is currently doing everything correctly.

Alderman Elston thanked Mayor Lee for the opportunity to attend the IML Conference. Elston stated that after attending the roundtable she was able to appreciate that Sterling's Council members always work well together and have the best interest of the City in mind.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone to attend the Hops on the Rocks as well as the Farmers Market. Elston also stated that she has received several complaints about the entrance to the Dillon Home, Com-Ed damaged the road and it has not been fixed. Cones have been placed on the hole

and someone removes them. Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader stated that he has contacted Com-Ed and they have referred it to the Internal Project Manager.

Alderman Ekquist stated she attended several classes, including classes on economic vitality and downtown revitalization. Ekquist stated she came away with a lot of new ideas, she was able to compare our community to other communities and she was able to see that we are actually in a great position.

Mayor Lee stated that he attended two seminars on criminal justice reform and brought back information on that. Mayor Lee spoke to the National Service League Group, they will have a presentation for the City Council on homeowners insuring water and sewer lines.

Mayor Lee informed the Council that the Fire Department received a \$1,000 grant from Illinois American Water to be used for equipment. Mayor Lee commended the Police and Fire Departments for the major incidents they handled over the past weekend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk