

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 15, 2018. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Financial Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no communications from Visitors.

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

- A) Minutes from Special Meeting of December 29, 2017 and regular meeting of January 2, 2018
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$438,096.65
- C) Purchase of one Chevrolet Impala from Kunes' Country Auto Group in the amount of \$24,000

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass the Proclamation Recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee introduced Planner Wolff for a presentation on the Riverfront Planning and reminded the Council this is for information only. We are not looking for approval to spend any money this evening. Planner Wolff presented cost estimates for the Riverfront development. Although the entire development could cost over \$4 million, Wolff reminded the Council this is an overview of the project. Phases 1, 2, and 3 are to get people to the riverfront. These will be 10' wide sidewalks; other sidewalks may be 6'. All are ADA compliant. The estimated cost includes concrete, lighting, cameras, and engineering. Alderman Stauter likes the plan but wants to know where the money is coming from. Manager Shumard explained a group met in 2016 and wanted estimates on the development. Alderman Wise asked if the National building is not part of this equation, where parking would be. Planner Wolff explained there will be parking along the north side of Wallace Street since the roadway is being moved to the south. Alderman Wise suggested a Hispanic Memorial be planned to preserve their culture and contributions to this area. Planner Wolff stated that memorials can be earmarked and not specify who or what. Alderman Martin asked about maintenance and mowing for

the riverfront. Martin wondered if the Park District or Township may partner with us. Alderman Stauter asked how much usage is estimated. Wolff reported it is hard to estimate use because of non-specific activities. Wolff suggested the City be open to in-kind donations.

Manager Shumard explained he received a call from an employee at CGH expressing concern about the pedestrian walkways crossing Miller Road at First Avenue. Reportedly, several people had close calls with vehicular traffic.

Planner Wolff clarified that pedestrians feel unsafe because of vehicular movement. Wolff outlined several types of vertical deflections, such as speed humps, speed table, raised intersection, bump outs, and a center island. Other options are rapid flashing beacons or high intensity activated crosswalks. Wolff recommended a traffic study by an engineer during peak times to observe traffic flow. Alderman Wise asked if a pedestrian bridge has been considered and if CGH may partner with us. Wolff stated there is insufficient space for a bridge because of the slope requirements. Planner Wolff suggested the first step would be to paint the crosswalk in color, versus white and add more signage.

Chief Morgan reported two new police officers have been hired. They began training and expenses have greatly increased. It will probably cost an additional \$26,000, which will be partially reimbursed. Employees have an employment contract for five years to pro-rate reimbursements if they leave the City. We are now at 28 officers. Testing will begin in February for a new list.

Alderman Wilen asked why squad cars may be driving streets without lights on. Chief Morgan explained there has been a rash of break-ins and squads cruise to pick up activity. Wilen asked if we do anything about ticketing for violations of parking during snow events. Morgan stated approximately 70 tickets were issued.

Alderman Elston is excited to see the line-up of movies for this summer at Grandon.

Alderman Wise was happy to see the quick apprehension of burglars from the Dollar General. Wise was pleased with Public Works job of snow removal.

Mayor Lee reported three local students have received academy appointments. Lee is proud that locals have been accepted because it is quite an accomplishment.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk