

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 4, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Mackenzie Hopping, John Stauter, and Jim Wise. Absent: Aldermen Joe Martin and Christine Wilen.

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.

Dick Card applauded Public Works for their snow removal efforts. Card asked if there are exceptions to parking regulations during snow emergencies because he saw so many vehicles in violation. Chief Morgan stated there are procedures to follow to tow vehicles; however, vehicles can be towed from snow routes immediately.

Tom Brackemeyer agrees with Card that snow removal was handled very well. Brackemeyer recited a verse about not pleasing everyone and presented an article on the momentum to do more about pedestrian deaths. Brackemeyer wants to see pedestrian safety enhanced by replacing sidewalk in the 400 to 600 blocks of East LeFevre. He also noted the walk light at Locust and LeFevre is too short for people to safely cross the street.

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

- A) Minutes of January 21, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,268,620.65
- C) Authorize Payment to Strand Associates for stormwater engineering services in the amount of \$18,373.04
- D) Partial Pay Request #3 to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$99,548.06 for the Second Avenue and Miller Road Drainage Improvements
- E) Award the contract to demolish 2304 Spring Street to Stichter Construction, Inc. of Erie, Illinois, in the amount of \$8,299.00
- F) Refer to Plan Commission a Petition from 1500 South Lynn Boulevard LLC (Halo) to vacate West 13th Street and combine all lots to a single lot for future expansion
- G) Refer to Plan Commission a Petition from United Craftsmen to subdivide Lot 7 PIN#11-20-327-023 at Dillon Avenue and West Fourth Street

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #2019-02-02 Authorizing Letter of Objection to the Whiteside County Board Relating to a Request for Rezoning from Juan Roman and Jolene Rodriguez for Property at 12717 Lawrence Road to Use as a Special Events Venue**; seconded by Alderman Hopping. Superintendent Schmidt explained the petitioner is requesting a zoning change which would permit a multitude of businesses to locate there if the special events venue ceased operation. Alderman Wise asked how the City can tighten up the possibilities of spot zoning in the County. Attorney Zollinger explained the City can only send a letter supporting or objecting to County zoning within 1-1/2 miles of the City. If the City sends a letter of objection, it requires more members of the County Board to approve the petition. Zollinger explained that a Special Use Permit would better limit the uses. Alderman Wise stated this property is far away from the City limits and has been underused. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, and Stauter. Nays – Alderman Wise. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #2019-02-03 Authorizing Letter of Objection to the Whiteside County Board Relating to a Request for Rezoning for a Special Use Permit for a Solar Farm on Property at 582 Stouffer Road**; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Superintendent Schmidt explained that solar companies are vying for the government dollars to install solar farms. Dennis Jokerst lives north of the proposed site and explained how this is prime development for more residential. He represented his neighbors and stated they are not against solar farms, but this is not a good location. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Clerk Rombouts announced the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 because Monday is Presidents Day.

Chief Cook reported several incidents over the last couple weeks. Cook emphasized that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are very important.

Alderman Hopping thanked public safety and Commonwealth Edison for their work last week. She emphasized being prepared for the weather as she was stuck in the snow.

Alderman Elston congratulated CGH Medical Center on their new clinic in Rock Falls. Elston praised Public Works for their continued service in this weather.

Alderman Wise asked if we are going to revisit the shrubbery ordinance. Manager Shumard stated that staff and legal feel there is no way to adequately enforce such an ordinance. Attorney Zollinger stated the definitions are unenforceable.

Mayor Lee thanked Council and staff for the figurine to commemorate his mother-in-law.

With no further regular business, the meeting adjourned to a budget study session at 7:08 pm.

Manger Shumard reviewed the following funds in the budget:

- Northwestern Steel & Wire – based on grants and donations. Primarily an in/out account. Warehouse is moved.
- MFT – revenues are based on information from IML.
- Coliseum – generator switch needs to be replaced. The elevator is not in the budget. Bond retires in 2035.
- Civil Defense – money to replace sirens.
- TIF Lynn/Lincolnway – from recovery bonds. Can refinance next year and save more money for developer.
- CGH Bonds – in/out account. City owned and CGH contributes \$50,000 to NWSW fund.
- SSA – Greenridge paid off. Tori Pines extra for reconstructing roads.
- Police Pension – 54.73% funded. Two pensions were transported to other pensions.
- Trust Committee – Memorial work for Veteran's.
- APP Grant – Round 4 application has been submitted.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk