

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 6, 2017. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, John Stauter, and Christine Wilen. Absent: None.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer stated that he had received a response from Manager Shumard. Brackemeyer stated the Strategic Plan displays the health care system and schools in our community. He believes these to be assets in our community but around that area are two blocks of sidewalk in very poor shape. Brackemeyer asked Attorney Zollinger who could be sued if they fall on this sidewalk. Zollinger replied the claim would be evaluated based on facts, circumstances, and financial position.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2017 and Minutes from the Joint Meeting with the Plan Commission from January 9, 2017
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,264,851.35
- C) Refer Petition to Plan Commission from Kune's Sterling and Graincomm III to expand the Special Use Permit at 2811 Locust Street regarding the cellular tower
- D) Refer Petition to Plan Commission for County Zoning from Pete Harkness at 3705 Emerson Road to rezone for Storage Units
- E) Partial Pay Request from Civil Constructors in the amount of \$109,870.46 for ADA Sidewalk Work at First Avenue/Third Street; First Avenue/Fourth Street and Locust/Sixth Street

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

Deputy Chief Dettman introduced Mike Amesquita for 40 years of dedicated service to the Sterling Fire Department as a Paid-On Call Firefighter. Dettman indicated that Amesquita helped annually with the bucket brigade for the Salvation Army. Mayor Lee presented a plaque to Amesquita.

Manager Shumard reminded everyone of the public meeting for review of Building Codes in unincorporated areas of Whiteside County. A meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on February 15, 2017 here in the Council Chambers.

Chief Morgan announced that Sterling's Community Dog should join us the second week of March. It will be a Golden Retriever.

Mayor Lee asked the status of Coventry Village. Superintendent Schmidt reported that a conference call is scheduled tomorrow with their attorney. She has had no other communication from them and time is running close for notifications of the public hearing in March.

Alderman Conklin expressed concern that tenants are not protected from questionable living conditions. Superintendent Schmidt stated that Code Enforcement needs to be invited into a home for any inspections. Mayor Lee assured Alderman Conklin that we are still working on the rental inspection program.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone that the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, because of President's Day.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned to a budget study session.

Manager Shumard presented the following funds for review:

- Northwestern Steel & Wire Redevelopment – Best Cob building brings revenue into this account. The building will be vacated by July 1 and we are working with GSDC to determine the building's future
- MFT – State Revenue has been decreasing
- Coliseum – Fund Balance from Bond payments. Manager Shumard is uncertain how space will be charged for the Dispatch Consolidation with the County.
- Civil Defense – funds are used for radios and cell phones
- TIF – Lynn/Lincolnway – Kohl's and Petsmart. We lose approximately \$1000 annually because most revenues are transferred to the Developer
- TIF – Central Business District – Fung Ming Parking Lot is in this district and we are working with Sterling Today
- TIF – Central Business District East – expires in 2039. This includes the Lawrence Lofts
- CGH Bonds – strictly in and out account because City had a better bond rating than the hospital
- Special Service Areas – Greenridge is done and Tori Pines has been paid off
- Solid Waste – contract with Allied is for one more year. Increase this year will be \$.70 because of contract increases and less revenues from the state

- Police Pension – Aiming for 90% funded in 2040. Shumard explained that we are investing on the higher side as recommended by the actuary. Early investment can start working earlier and hopefully, eliminate outrageous payments in later years
- Fire Pension – same as Police Pension
- Trust Committee Fund – this is waiting for the riverfront for a Veteran's Monument

Following the meeting on February 21, we will work on the General Fund budget. Shumard is encouraging capital purchases in this fiscal year because next Fiscal Year is looking very dismal because of the decreases in replacement tax and income tax

Manager Shumard informed the Council that a student at Platteville is interested in an internship with the City this summer – May 30 to August 11. She is from Sterling and is in the political science field. Pay can be minimal. Shumard wanted a consensus from the Council before he interviewed the candidate. There were no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk