

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2017. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, and Christine Wilen. Absent: Alderman Christopher Schuchard.

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, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Scott Howard, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, 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 Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) Minutes from February 6, 2017
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$680,211.00
- C) Plan Commission Minutes from October 20, 2016
- D) Refer Petition to Plan Commission from SIDC to vacate the publicly dedicated street named Commerce Drive north of West 13th Street in the Meadowlands Business Park
- E) Partial Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$6,253.60 to Stichter Construction for the Miller Street Lift Station Forcemain Replacement
- F) Bid for Demolition of a single-family dwelling and detached garage located at 208 West Seventh Street to Burke Excavating in the amount of \$13,449.00
- G) Bid for Demolition of a single-family dwelling at 603 Fourth Avenue to Burke Excavating in the amount of \$14,490.00

The motion was seconded by Alderman Wilen.

There was concern about the award of the bid to Burke Excavating for 603 Fourth Avenue. Superintendent Schmidt stated that CP's Demolition Service has not met past deadlines for work completion. March 31 ends this quarter and work needs to be completed in a timely fashion.

Voting on Consent Agenda: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Dave Gross from Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) reported they are proceeding with the installation of smart meters in Sterling. He introduced Rommel Noguera. Noguera

reported progress on the smart meter installation and what to expect. The installation is part of an energy modernization act and updating infrastructure. Crews will be in the Sterling area in April to install the smart meters. Notifications will be sent to customers 30 to 45 days before installations begin. Seven days before installation, ComEd will call and give a reminder to customers if access is necessary. Installation should take 10 to 15 minutes. Switching meters takes approximately 3 to 5 minutes which may cause a short outage. Most of the installers are ComEd employees, 25% are contractors. The installation throughout Sterling should take approximately six weeks. Installers will be in white vans with ComEd markings. Installers will have IDs and will show them if asked. They will not ask for any money. People are trying to run scams and ComEd is encouraging residents to be cautious and ask for ID when in doubt. The meters will run more efficiently and reduce theft of unaccounted energy. If problems arise, some diagnostics can be done over the phone, without dispatching technicians. Noguera answered questions. Meters will send data packets wirelessly to ComEd every four hours. No employees will lose their jobs. Many employees will reach better positions at a much quicker pace in ComEd because meter readers will bid out for different jobs. The smart meter fits in the same spot as the current meter. Smart meters will be installed in commercial and residential at the same time and according to billing schedules, not necessary neighborhoods. Customers do not need to be home unless access is necessary. If access is required, there will be Saturday appointments. Smart meters will not interfere with WIFI.

Superintendent Schmidt reminded citizens that despite the great weather and the urge to clean the yard, yard waste pick-up does not resume until March 13. Schmidt also reported that she and Mike Wolber had completed a grant application. The City will be awarded \$71,000 for abandoned properties.

Superintendent Schrader stated that Sterling Commercial Roofing took advantage of the good weather and began the roof on Lawrence Brothers.

Alderman Elston thanked Chief Cook and Chief Morgan for the annual reports. She asked why there were so many more accidents at First Avenue and Third Street. Chief Morgan was unsure but speculated that construction in the area contributed to the increase. Elston was concerned about the increase in offenses involving children. Morgan attributed that to Officer Ellmaker putting forth a lot of effort and more reports were filed.

Alderman Wilen appreciated the violations for people rolling through stop signs.

Alderman Conklin mentioned a house with many animals and in poor condition. Superintendent Schmidt reminded everyone that unless Code Enforcement is invited into the property, inspections cannot be performed. Conklin asked that the City

consider observing Martin Luther King Day and move the meeting to a Tuesday, like this Tuesday for President's Day.

Alderman Conklin asked what code is necessary for us to protect renters. Manager Shumard suggested that we review the rental inspection program at a study session after the budget sessions are complete. Attorney Zollinger stated it is fair to say that the City has codes for the landlords to follow but Code Enforcement cannot enter a building without permission. Alderman Stauter reminded people that a renter can call the City to report a violation. Mayor Lee stated the rental inspection program is the political will of the Council.

Mayor Lee stated that he was impressed with the Police and Fire annual reports. Mayor Lee reminded everyone that we are entering the disaster season and reminded Aldermen to get their FEMA certification.

Mayor Lee asked the difference between the DARE program and Second Step Program. Chief Morgan stated the DARE program is outdated and the Second Step is part of the curriculum, not requiring one dedicated officer.

Chief Morgan reported that Lt. Mohr and Officer Diehl will be picking up the department's comfort dog on Monday.

Mayor Lee asked Council members to review the email regarding study sessions and encouraged input.

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

Manager Shumard presented the following funds for review:

General Fund

- Current year has a surplus of \$569,910, FY 17-18 is projected to be \$3486. Because this year's budget has a surplus, Shumard has encouraged departments to pull their proposed capital expenditures into this year.
- Information Technology (IT) has been separated into its own department.
- Fire Contract expires April 30, 2017 – wage and benefit increase estimated.
- Police Contract is still being negotiated.
- Police Support Services are roughly estimated because dispatches will likely be contracted out to Whiteside County.
- Public Works Amended Budget can be reduced because of fewer snow events.

Capital Fund

- Several projects moved to this fiscal year.

Sewer Fund

- Dredging of Lagoon estimated at \$3.6 million over the next two years.
- Includes \$550,000 in depreciation and pension charges that are non-cash.
- Separate sump pump and roof drain connections.
- Proposed increase to sewer rates to build reserve for future wastewater treatment plant, estimated at \$35 million.

Shumard wanted to confirm accelerating Capital Fund purchases and summer intern. Other Funds to Review.

- Library
- Band Commission
- IMRF
- Social Security
- TIF Rock River
- Health Insurance
- IGIG, Mud to Parks and BRP Grants

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk