

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 4, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Mackenzie Hopping, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

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 comments from Visitors.

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

- A) Minutes of February 19, 2018
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$632,815.74
- C) Plan Commission Minutes from September 20, 2018 and January 17, 2019
- D) Partial Pay Request #4 for Second Avenue/Miler Road to Martin & Company
Excavating in the amount of \$78,448.60

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

Alderman Hopping presented information for Women's History Month on Grace Boynton Logan, a Sterling resident. Grace Boynton Logan took many steps beyond accepted practices for women during her lifetime. Her mother was the first woman in Sterling to cast a vote, Grace divorced her husband, married Ellis Logan, partook in marches for women's clubs, and was involved in women's suffrage.

On the note of women's contributions, Alderman Wilen recognized Kris Noble for her graduation from the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's premier business leadership program.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-03-06 vacating West 13th Street and a portion of Commerce Drive in the Meadowland Business Park**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Attorney Zollinger stated this right-of-way vacation for the expansion of Halo is conditional on a new roadway being dedicated and

built. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-03-04 which allows for the re-plat of Lot 1 and Lots 19 and 20 of the Meadowlands Business Park**; seconded by Alderman Elston. This follows the street vacation for expansion plans at Halo and aggregating the lots into one lot. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-03-05 which allows the re-plat of Lot M-2 of Martin Estates Subdivision and Sub-lot 7 of Pitney's Resubdivision** for Kevin McGinn and United Craftsmen, Ltd.; seconded by Alderman Martin. Attorney Zollinger stated when zoning was updated in 2014, the lot owned by McGinn was accidentally zoned as Residential. This will be worked out to coincide with the industrial use it should have been zoned. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin sought a consensus of the Council regarding the street program. In 24 years, Martin recalls one occasion that Council overrode the engineer's decision to move a street up on the construction list. When Council saw pictures evidencing the sanitary issues, it became a priority. Martin asked Council member if they wanted the engineer, City Manager, and Superintendent of Public Works to proceed on their current list to get projects ready for bid this year. The second item he wanted a consensus on is their priority on East Seventh Street.

Alderman Wise would like to see the street program proceed but would hope Seventh Street can be worked into this year. He went to school in what is now Propheter Park, he lives on East Seventh Street, and he would like to see it get done.

Aldermen Stauter, Elston, Wilen, and Hopping agreed to move forward with the street program without East Seventh Street.

Alderman Martin stated the consensus is to move forward with the street program and maybe take a road trip to compare roads when the weather breaks. Mayor Lee stated we now need to know the criteria for ranking. Manager Shumard is looking for policy setting, but not a solid ranking tool.

Alderman Hopping reported a new store manager at Claire's in the mall is very enthusiastic and ready to become involved in the community. Hopping asked if a mailer

could be sent to citizens regarding the new logo and a reminder of the City's cell phone app. Manager Shumard briefly reviewed the reporting capabilities of the app.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of wings for Brinkley at Buffalo Wild Wings on March 13. Elston asked if the neighborhood trailer would be ready for the Clean and Green Weekend in May. Manager Shumard reported they are working with a different company to get it done.

Mayor Lee reported the high school state champions would be recognized at the next meeting. Lee stated the recycling market is getting worse and is hoping for some educational sessions with Republic Services.

The meeting adjourned to a study session at 7:14 pm.

Manager Shumard reviewed the following accounts.

- Stormwater – projects to be completed in summer 2019 – Second Avenue/Miller Road, Duis Center, Northland Mall, Douglas Park, engineering for 1900 block of Fourth and Fifth Avenues.
- Band Commission – committed \$25,000 to the upgrades at Grandon Civic Center. Donations have decreased since 2016-17. Alderman Stauter asked about the Band Commission's accountability for increased expenses and reduced revenues. Allen Lee, Band Commission member, explained donations are down because donors are dying. They are currently interviewing for a new director. They have had double the attendance for the Pops Concert which is free but less to pay for the food that has been the fundraiser part. Allen stated the Band Commission is improving the product of the band and planning to regain revenue. Alderman Stauter asked how the fundraising went last year. Alderman Martin does not have a problem with serving liquor but there needs to be an accountability. Janna Groharing with Sterling Main Street reported that Smoked on Third lost over \$300 and that did not include the license fees. Lee was unsure if they would pursue the liquor license again.
- SIDC – revenues are down because a large, long-term tenant moved out
- IMRF – has been overfunded trying to work the balance down. As fewer funds are budgeted our contribution rates keep dropping.
- Social Security – has been overfunded and bringing the balance down
- TIF West CBD – increment will be used to construct walkway by Farmer's Market
- Rock River TIF – legal fees have decreased
- CBD East TIF – increment will start work at Grandon Civic Center
- Solid Waste – 65 cent increase to keep with the contractual cost

- Fire Pension – City’s contributions are above actuary’s recommendations to close the gap in funding before 2036. Alderman Martin stated underfunding in the pension plans can reduce our bond rating.

Manager Shumard stated there are questions to be answered for the street survey. He’d like the Councils’ opinions on what is more important – curbs/storm sewers, sidewalks, bike paths, sidewalks on both sides, location, traffic count, and how to prioritize. Shumard explained most projects are not more than two blocks to avoid additional drainage work. Alderman Elston asked if streetscape in the downtown is done. Alderman Stauter asked if all corners in the downtown have been brought into ADA compliance. Manager Shumard stated streetscape is done and corners are compliant. Manager Shumard is looking into light strings between decorative light posts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk