

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 16, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. 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, 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 of March 2, 2020
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$676,575.62
- C) Pay Request #3 for Northland Mall Regional Detention Pond to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$213,795.00
- D) Change Order #2 for Sterling Public Market in the amount of \$3,950.00
- E) Pay Request #7 for Sterling Public Market to Porter Brothers in the amount of \$150,016.59

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget at the 6:30 pm meeting of the City Council on Monday, April 6, 2020; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2020-03-06 to convey certain real estate to the State of Illinois for IDOT Highway purposes for the sum of \$14,500**; seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Johnson asked by selling this property and continuing with the Fourth Street reconstruction, if it would hamper decoupling the one-way streets. Manager Shumard assured this would not impede the decoupling. The traffic study be a longer delay. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard shared points from Governor Pritzker's Executive Order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. All restaurants and bars will close at 9:00 pm tonight (Monday). Federal suggestion is less than 10 people to a meeting and the state mandated any gatherings over 50 to be postponed. Regulations of the Open Meetings Act have been suspended to hold meetings remotely, but trying to be available for public viewing.

Clerk Rombouts reminded everyone that tomorrow is primary elections day.

Superintendent Schmidt stated Plan Commission will meet on Thursday.

Manager Shumard stated the main lobby will be closed. Payments can be made in the Police Records office, where a glass wall exists to separate customers from employees. Unemployment has waived the one-week waiting period. Penalties on utility bills will be waived during this time.

Janna Groharing stated Sterling Theater and the Farmers Market will be closed.

Alderman Martin recognized the passing of Darryl Wahler, former CEO of CGH Medical Center.

Alderman Elston stated hospital visits are limited. If you are not feeling well contact your primary physician for their recommendation. She reiterated to wash your hands and stay 6' away from people.

Manager Shumard explained that the 500 block of Avenue G has been closed to one lane. A sewer lateral collapsed and caused a sinkhole. City staff has met with the homeowners. It could cost approximately \$20,000 to repair the line. Homeowners fixed the lateral to the property line a few years ago and cannot afford to fix this. If it is not fixed, the line would be capped and the house would become inhabitable. A family of six lives in the home. Manager Shumard asked if the Council is comfortable in extending a loan to this family over ten years to fix the lateral. This is a longer term than the City has done before. It was a consensus to fix the lateral and extend a 10-year loan versus condemning the house. Mayor Lee asked if there is insurance we could offer to the resident for lateral repairs.

Adjourned to Study Session at 7:09 pm.

Alderman Wise explained that he and Alderman Johnson worked on a committee to formulate rental procedures for the Sterling Marketplace. Alderman Johnson stated they considered making the options ala carte, in case people did not want all services.

Alderman Stauter asked if the marketplace would be enclosed. Janna Groharing stated it will not be enclosed and there will be no fencing. Attorney Zollinger noted the liquor code would need to be altered to permit alcohol on public property, other than streets. Manager Shumard reported the marketplace should be complete by Memorial Day.

Alderman Wise asked Council to get comments about the Marketplace Rental Procedures to Manager Shumard by April 15.

Budget Study Session: Manager Shumard asked if we should revise the budget knowing that sales tax will trail off. Mayor Lee suggested amending the budget in June or July, if necessary. Manager Shumard advised that if a salary increase is given, that cannot be repealed. Mayor Lee suggested looking at Capital Expenditures later. It was Council consensus to proceed as reviewed.

Stormwater projects are funded with the ½% sales tax. Projects for this year include Northland Mall, Johnson Avenue, Avenue E cross-connection, utility relocations on Fourth and Fifth Avenues, and Meadowland retention expansion.

Capital work includes Stanley National, Lawrence Brothers, Wastewater environmental, Grandon, and the fire truck. Streets proposed for reconstruction:

Brinks Circle – north of Route 2  
East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sixth Avenue – 11<sup>th</sup> to LeFevre  
Avenue D – 14<sup>th</sup> to LeFevre  
Avenue K – 300 block  
Sixth Avenue bike path – 21<sup>st</sup> to Grobe Road  
Eighth Avenue – 1000 block  
Lynn Boulevard - LeFevre to 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fourth Avenue – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> St  
18<sup>th</sup> Ave - 5<sup>th</sup> St to dead end  
West 20<sup>th</sup> Street – Shinkle to dead end –surface only

Library – replacing copper banding is primary project for approximately \$160,000. Attorney Zollinger stated the increasing minimum wage is detrimental to their budget.

Sewer – base rate \$12.15 to \$14.00 and additional usage fees, approximately \$2.45 monthly increase. Mayor Lee noted that sludge reductions are working. Manager Shumard explained a red zone camera system will be used to determine leaks in the sanitary sewer system because the monitors purchased last year did not work. City

received a refund on those monitors. Alderman Elston asked what a muffin monster is. Chief Cook explained it grinds sewage that goes through the system.

Alderman Elston made a motion to move to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters pursuant to 5ILCS 12/2(c)(2) at 7:55 pm; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 8:17 pm, seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk