

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 18, 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 Waste Water Treatment Scott Howard, 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.

Shirley Sharp wanted to revisit a former complaint about alcohol at the band concerts. Sharp attended the Band Commission meeting and was told that the Council has agreed to permit patrons to bring in their own alcohol. Sharp is not in favor of alcohol at the concerts. It is free family entertainment. Mayor Lee stated last year was a pilot program for alcohol. Sharp stated the Band Commission gave her the impression that the ordinance was being changed to permit patrons bringing their own alcohol.

Roy Sharp reported that Allen Lee stated the Council is looking at changing the ordinance to permit patrons to bring alcohol to the concerts.

Alderman Martin stated there was no mention of that to the Council.

Mayor Lee stated nothing is proposed. The Council would have to change the ordinance. Nothing has been proposed or discussed.

Shirley Sharp asked if individuals could bring in alcohol. Mayor Lee stated it would require a change to the ordinance.

Shirley Sharp asked about changes to Grandon Center and why additional parking is necessary.

Dylan Devers with the Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees stated they have done the community fireworks for 50 years. Jaycees also provide a Christmas program for kids and school donations. They are reaching to City as a financial resource. They have been losing

money each year on the fireworks and do not want to jeopardize their other programs. Mayor Lee asked him to give the City some numbers. Devers stated he would get back to the City after their next meeting.

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

- A) Minutes of March 4, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$528,153.19
- C) Bid from Sauk Valley Bank to provide banking services for fiscal years ending 2019, 2020, and 2021

**D) Ordinance #2019-03-07 Authorizing the Mayor to sign a right-of-way dedication for Dillon Avenue**

Motion seconded by Alderman Hopping. Alderman Stauter noticed three accidents occurred with traffic signal damage and wanted to know who was paying that bill. Superintendent Schrader stated tickets were issued and reimbursement is coming from those responsible for the accidents. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to a pass the Proclamation declaring Monday, March 18, 2019 as State Champions' Day in the City of Sterling; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and stated that it is with great pride to recognize the Sterling State Champions in Volleyball, Chess, and two wrestlers. Mayor Lee presented each team or individual with a proclamation.

**Sterling High School Volleyball:** Genea Garza, Josi Borum, Zia Meier, Macie Gebhardt, Grace Gould, Grace Mahoney, Lexi Rodriguez, Gretchen Gould, Brooklyn Borum, Jaylynn Razo, Mikaley Smith, Kierra Collins, Emma Rapp, Breelyn Borum, and Jordan Thormeyer. Coaches Dale Dykeman, Barb Wolf-Cotes, Crystal Rodriguez, Stephanie Gibson, and Tammy Borum. Manager: Cam Delgado

**Sterling High School Chess:** Aidan Munoz Ripley, Matthew Valentino, Tyler Hansen, Nathaniel Stout, Josiah Schmitt, Isaac Jensen, Jonathan Gottemoller, Jack Maxwell, and Andrew Ivarson. Coaches: Joel Penne and Mike Gottemoller

**Newman High School Wrestler:** Brody Ivey

**Sterling Challand Middle School Wrestler:** Peyton Davis

Mayor Lee recognized Nathaniel Stout from the Chess team. Stout will be attending the Air Force Academy. Lee stated that there is only a 10% acceptance rate and commended him on this accomplishment.

Alderman Elston thanked Brad and Melanie from Public Works for helping answer questions on an alley for a citizen.

Mayor Lee was pleased to have the state champions attend the Council meeting. Lee asked Council members to get information ready for the Manager's evaluation.

At 7:00 pm, the meeting was adjourned to a budget study session.

Library budget was presented with no questions. Attorney Zollinger noted the minimum wage increases will affect their budget for the next five years.

Superintendent Howard reported the bacteria used in the lagoon has done a remarkable job and will be saving money in dredging costs. Waste Water is still waiting for the permit renewal, after two years. Alderman Stauter asked about the flow meters. Superintendent Schrader stated that six meters were purchased and will be installed soon.

Manager Shumard reviewed the sewer budget with the middle increase of \$1.10 to the base sewer rate and an increase of \$.45 to the user rate. This rate increase will allow the City to set aside \$625,000 for a future plant.

Health insurance rates have dropped this year. The City is looking to increase the number of participants in the Health Check 360 program. With the decrease, employees will receive a 10% discount on their premiums.

Manager Shumard reported the Band Commission revised their budget. There will be no wage increase. The budget is now balanced.

Director Von Holten reported MICA, general insurance carrier, will now calculate premiums differently. Instead of basing on revenues and payroll, premiums are now based on revenues and number of vehicles. This will decrease Sterling's premiums.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk