

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 15, 2019. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Mackenzie Hopping, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman Joe Martin.

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.

Lynn Sheley asked about the oversight of the hospital by the City. Sheley wanted to know why a good surgeon like Jake Hopping would be let go without explanation. Attorney Zollinger explained the hospital board of directors is appointed by the Mayor and Council; however, the board runs the hospital with its staff.

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

- A) Bills and Payroll totaling \$863,210.98
- B) St. Mary's Procession of the Cross on Friday, April 19, 2019
- C) Payment to Illinois American Water Company for West Fourth Street in the amount of \$515,445.02
- D) Resolution #R2019-04-07 to close the turn lane on to Second Street from Illinois Route 40 for the Sterling Main Street Car Show on Sunday, May 5, 2019**
- E) Resolution #R2019-04-08 to close Fourth Street for the Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 27, 2019**
- F) Resolution #R2019-04-09 to close Fourth Street for Municipal Band Concerts throughout the summer**
- G) Resolution #R2019-04-09 to close Fourth Street for Movies at Grandon throughout the summer**
- H) Ordinance #2019-04-08 Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2018 in the amount of \$37,118,669**
- I) Ordinance #2019-04-09 Amending Chapter 94, Section 34 regarding wastewater service charges and Section 35 regarding billing and collection of service charges; increase basic user charge by \$1.10 and basic user rate per 100 cu. ft. by \$.45**

J) Ordinance #2019-04-10 Amending the Sterling City Code section 74-14 to establish the cost of refuse collection; increase by \$.65

K) Ordinance #2019-004-11 Setting Forth the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Employee Classification and Compensation Plan

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

Chief Morgan introduced Police Officer, Alejandro Rivera. Rivera has been through training and joined our force. He is a home-grown boy and is welcomed back to Sterling.

Clerk Rombouts shared United Way awards with the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department. City employees have been supporters of United Way and its causes.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 26, 2019 as Arbor Day in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Superintendent Schrader for the Tree Board. Schrader works with the tree board to plant trees with students in honor of Arbor Day. Manager Shumard stated the tree board will be working on a list of suitable trees for streets and yards.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 14 - 19, 2019, as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; seconded by Alderman Hopping. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Claudia Garcia, Director of TwinCom. Garcia stated there are two locations, one in Sterling and one in Morrison. The Telecommunicators are dedicated and hard working.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2019-4-12 Adopting the Final Year 2019/2020 budget in the amount of \$42,606,461**; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Manager Shumard outlined several items that will be done this fiscal year: Public Market, Roundabout, new fire engine, Phase 1 of Public Works building, Riverfront security and lighting, Central Park, stormwater projects at the Mall, Dillon Avenue, Douglas Park and Miller Road/Second Avenue, and street projects on Sixth Avenue and East 13th Street.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the write-off of the uncollectible accounts totaling \$26,092.28 for fiscal year 2018-19; seconded by Alderman Hopping. Director Von Holten stated this is the first year of uncollected debt from Idrop. Accounts fall off of Idrop after two tax seasons. The utility write-off of \$18,653.84 represents less than ½% of the total utility billing. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Morgan stated one more police officer has been hired and hoping for three more to send to training in May. Morgan explained the blue pinwheels around the community represent awareness of abuse, especially for April House that works with abused children.

Manager Shumard reported that Annette Hackbarth has been named the new Band Director. Bid openings will occur in May for the roundabout and the Public Market. The sewer along Lynn Boulevard will be finished soon. The last meeting with the County about Telecommunicators was postponed because a quorum was not available. The Millennials group has met and is providing information on what draws them back to Sterling. Borings at Lawrence Brothers is underway. Nothing more on Stanley. Branding will be the next project. Manager Shumard thanked employees for their service and recognized Brad Alexander, Dave Adams for 30 years of services and Chief Morgan, and Captain Jason Williamson for 25 years of service.

Alderman Wilen asked if the loan for tree removal could be used for rental property. There were no objections for the loans to be used for rentals on dead trees. Wilen intends to meet with neighbors around 13th Avenue about the water in their back yards.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone about the Sip into Spring on April 25. May 5 is Main Street's car show. A film about the Dillon Home will play at the SHS auditorium on Thursday. Elston wants more constructive resident input and is unsure how to get that. IML magazine addresses this issue with no direct answers. Elston recognized Alderman Hopping's article on resident participation.

Alderman Wise suggested Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) to interact with citizens.

Mayor Lee recognized Kris Noble on her Women of Achievement award and Janna Groharing and Marie Rombouts for their nominations. Lee thanked Manger Shumard, Clerk Rombouts, Assistants Deb Dillow and Monique Castillo for their work on the Awards Banquet.

Manager Shumard stated Boss has asked for reimbursement on the culvert he replaced on East Lincolnway. Shumard sent the information to Strand Engineering for review. Shumard asked the Council to get back to him for further action.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) will be in the community to conduct a national service for health statistics between May 9 and August 3. Kris Noble reported Beth Fiorini from the Health Department can provide more information. Noble reported she is working Rebecca Munoz Ripley on the 2020 Census.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:30 pm to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Hopping. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the regular Council meeting at 7:42 pm; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Hopping, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Open meeting reconvened.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk