

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 7, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending 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, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Dettman, Police Chief Tim Morgan, Deputy Police Chief Alex Chavira and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

Mayor Lee and City Manager Scott Shumard were present in the council chambers while everyone else attended via Zoom. The meeting was recorded and kept on the city hard drive. All members in attendance can hear the other members in attendance.

There were no communications from Visitors.

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

- A) Minutes of June 15, 2020 and June 19, 2020 Special Council meetings
- B) Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C) Approval of June 25, 2020 Plan Commission Minutes
- D) Pay Request #4 for reconstructing Johnson Avenue from 14th Street to LeFevre Road to Twin City Construction Company in the amount of \$47,360.53
- E) Pay Request #5 for 2019 Street Program Contract #1 Roadway Reconstruction of 2nd Avenue, 6th Avenue and 13th Street in the amount of \$32,038.47
- F) Pay Request #6 for Dillon Avenue Reconstruction from West 11th Street to West 4th Street Phase 2 to Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$204,127.64
- G) Pay Request #2 for Lynn Blvd/LeFevre Road New Construction of Roundabout to Martin and Company Excavating, in the amount of \$105,178.19
- H) Pay Request #6 to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$471,931.77 for the Northland Mall Regional Detention Basin

Motion seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Elston requested that the Plan Commission minutes from June 25, 2020 be amended to include her, as she was in attendance but omitted from the minutes. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to appoint Anthony Crisp to the Band Commission; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing Chief Gary Cook for his service to the City of Sterling Fire Department and the Twin City Joint Fire Command; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the resolution into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-07-22 Annexing Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision – Group 7)**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2020-07-18 to Refer Consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling (Steelton Subdivision – Group 8)**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-07-23 Amending Chapter 42, Article IV of the Sterling City Code Relating to Controlled Prairie Grass Burns**; seconded by Alderman Martin. City Manager Shumard stated that the Riverfront consultant is a big proponent of natural grass burns, the purpose of the prairie burns is to keep the bad weeds at bay and promotes the good natural growth. Alderman Stauter wanted to know how many private residents there currently are that have prairie grass so they do not have to mow. City Manager Shumard said there is one on West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street that would like to burn however, with their proximity to commercial businesses this is not favorable and the Fire Department will have to approve the requests. Mayor Lee didn't feel there were that many private residents and reiterated that the fire department would have to approve the burning. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-07-24 Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Sterling, owned by Chavez Real Estate LLC, PIN# 11-19-404-010, commonly known as 407 East Avenue**; seconded by

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

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-07-25 Amending the zoning map to reclassify property owned by Gregory A. Majeski (PIN # 11-22-260-003) from Community Business (CB) to Community Business with Special Use (CB-SU) to permit a standalone parking lot;** seconded by Alderman Wise. Alderman Elston stated that she and Alderman Wise visited several of the neighbors in February, everyone was pleased with the changes that Mr. Majeski has made to the area including the oil change business that had fire damage. They did hear some concerns in reference to the lighting and drainage, the engineer for Majeski's addressed those issues at the June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Plan Commission meeting. Alderman Wise stated it was a pleasure to work with his peers, the staff and a local business owner to expand the existing business and make use of property that has gone unused for several years. Alderman Martin wanted to know if this was it for Mr. Majeski and his expansions and if this would alleviate his employees parking on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue along Lincoln Park. Alderman Elston stated that it sounded like this was it for his expansions, he originally wanted to purchase the Lundstrom property at East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue but they are unwilling to sell. Attorney Zollinger stated that there is a line item in the ordinance stating that in the event that parking becomes problematic on the adjacent street, Mr. Majeski will comply with any limitations that the city imposes. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to accept the bid for 2020 Street Program, Contract #1 6th Avenue, Grind and Overlay to Twin City Construction from Sterling in the amount of \$259,777.00; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept the bid for Johnson Avenue, Phase II, East 12th Street to East 14th Street to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$227,777.00; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Elston asked if Twin City Construction completed Phase I of Johnson Ave and the Mayor confirmed that they did. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve CivicEngage Website Redesign Services to develop a new website for the city; seconded by Alderman Stauter. City Manager Shumard said this was not the most inexpensive option but they were the best option due to their ease of use and their extensive history of working with several communities including Lee County. Mayor Lee inquired about the website being mobile friendly and would that move us away from the current app we have, City Manager Shumard stated that the current app has tracking options that the website would not be able to provide and so he would keep the app but that could change in the future. Alderman Stauter

wanted to know about the original fee and how much each additional year would be and if that cost would rise, the first year is \$19,999 and the second year would be \$5,015 after year two the cost would have to be negotiated. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Brad Schrader Stated that a crew leader Joe Padilla retired after 24 years and 9 months, Mike Adams was appointed to the crew leader position starting July 1, 2020.

Attorney Zollinger wanted to mention the new public act (Public Act 101-0640) for remote meetings and we need to make findings on the record, which include the following.

- All council members are able to hear each other, discussions, testimonies and the votes during the meeting.
- The public is able to attend if they desire.
- One member of the council must be present in the council chambers.
- The meeting must be recorded and maintained by the City Clerk.

Chief Morgan stated he had an email from Alderman Wise about the graphics on a new squad car. Deputy Chief Chavira stated that squad 58 has graphics that are subdued. The decals reflect very little during the day but reflects at night in the lights. City Manager Shumard shared a picture of the squad car. Chief Morgan said that the vehicle is used as a reward for the Shift sergeants to assign to a deserving officer.

Brad Schrader advised that Public Works has started the E Waste Program again, he is asking city residents that need assistance unloading items to wear a mask, if no assistance is needed then a mask is not required. The hours for E Waste drop off are Monday thru Friday, 7:00am to 2:30pm.

City Manager Shumard said that the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has been suspended to work on the Rebuild Illinois Grant instead. IDOT has put out a notice to watch for buckled pavement and pavement damage due to the extreme heat. Shumard stated that as Attorney Zollinger noted future meetings do need to be recorded and Zoom has that capability and they will be saved to the hard drive. With Chief Cook's retirement Deputy Chief Dettman will be filling in temporarily until a Chief has been appointed. The agreement with Rock Falls states that the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association will be assisting the cities with selecting the new Chief. The proposal has been shared with Mayor Wescott and we are waiting for his response. News Channel 4 contacted the Mayor in reference to how COVID-19 was affecting the City of Sterling's economy, the unofficial June sales tax looks like it might be down 2% from last year, the June income tax is not back yet, the May Utility tax was up but the June utility tax is down.

Alderman Elston heard the fireworks were very nice and thanked the Jaycees and everyone involved with them, she thanked Public Works for putting the flags up. She thanked Attorney Zollinger and Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt for their work on a vacant property. She asked which utility company was working on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader advised that it was Illinois American Water, he will get a time frame from them and advised that one lane will be closed.

Alderman Johnson went to the Market Place to view the fireworks, the view was excellent, and the Jaycees did a wonderful job.

Alderman Stauter agreed the fireworks were excellent, the Jaycees did a wonderful job.

Alderman Wise noted that the Sterling Park District has opened the basketball courts and inquired if the city would be following suit. City Manager Shumard and Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader advised they will be opening the courts.

Alderman Martin agreed the fireworks were excellent, the Jaycees did a wonderful job. The citizens all practiced social distancing. He wanted all the aldermen to be aware of the Red Zone videoing the main trunk lines, they may have lane closures.

Mayor Lee wanted to thank Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt and Code Enforcement officer Brad Alexander for taking prompt action with property located on LeFevre that needed mowing. He also noted that the City app is very useful but the use has dropped off, we may need to look at marketing it better. He was very impressed with the Jaycees fireworks presentation, when times are better this will be a great opportunity for vendors to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Teri Sathoff  
City Clerk