

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

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Melissa Muesel from the CGH Operating Room is supporting the formation of a union. She stated the nurses are short staffed and belittled by supervisors. They are looking for respect, to be valued as caretakers, and keep patient safety in mind. She wants a voice and to hold management to the same standards.

Kathy Harvey, phlebotomist, wants to see good care for patients and they have the right to form a union. Dr. Steinke is against the union.

Jodi Thompson is concerned about patient care and wants the right to form a union without concern for her job. Thompson feels administration should hold a neutral position and not circulate anti-union propaganda.

Tanja Gruber from Critical Care presented a voice from the other side. Nurse shortage is a common problem. What are the solutions? Their department presented solutions and were given more security, cameras, and locked units. Gruber suggested presenting solutions to the chain of command and follow the chain upward to work on the solutions.

Serena Lahey is sorry nurses feel that they do not have a voice. Her supervisors do all they can to make work conditions better. Lahey suggested talking to people with solution-based ideas.

Mayor Lee indicated the City has no managerial role as CGH and remains neutral in the matter.

Kathy Lane, County Union Representative, stated this is a union town, let them vote, and be neutral.

Don Riva spoke of behalf of unions.

Melissa Meusel stated they have met with Dr. Steinke and followed the chain of command with no results.

Barb Schwarmberger, President of Union Retirees, stated they meet in Dixon and explained how they have benefitted with unions speaking for them.

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

- A) Minutes of July 1, 2019
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$691,390.98
- C) Sauk Valley Marine Cops League to hold a bucket brigade on August 3, 2019
- D) Partial Pay Request #5 to Fischer Excavating in the amount of \$441,115.00 for the Douglas Park Neighborhood Drainage Project
- E) Final Pay Request for Civil Constructors in the amount of \$4,626.90 for the Sanborn Street Improvements
- F) Purchase two 2020 Ford AWD Utility Police Interceptors for the Police Department from Kunes Country Ford in the amount of \$62,657.40
- G) Award bid to Wright & Sons Painting in the amount of \$22,125.00 for the painting of 43 light poles in the Central Business District
- H) Resolution #R2019-07-14 terminating the Special Use for the property located at 20 East Third Street**

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

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to appoint Albert "Skip" McCloud and reappoint Steve Munson to the Plan Commission for three-year terms; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass the Proclamation recognizing the Sterling\Rock Falls Historical Society for serving our community for 60 years; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Elston, Martin, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record. Loren Swartley, representing the Historical Society, reviewed progress they have achieved. A Junior Historian Program has been established. Over 4000 Fourth Grade Students have toured the Manahan Home.

Clerk Rombouts announced the Millennial Group has started their campaign for a dog park with two fundraisers this week, Buffalo Wild Wings on Wednesday and Champs Banquet Center on Thursday evening.

Manager Shumard announced the downtown striping project is complete and was aware of the inconvenience throughout the downtown. Savings will allow us to paint intersections on Avenue G. The Avenue G Bridge should be finished in the next week. A pre-construction meeting for the Farmers Market will be Friday afternoon. Shumard encouraged Council members to complete the survey for the Comprehensive Plan.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the movie on Tuesday night and band concert on Wednesday. Elston thanked Melanie at Public Works for her help during Schrader's absence. Elston asked if Superintendent Schmidt could provide some examples of ordinances to prohibit feeding wild animals. Mayor Lee stated we need to review enforceability. Schmidt stated she will prepare information for a study session. The question remains if feral cats are considered wildlife.

Alderman Wilen asked if the chicken ordinance resolved the chicken issues. Schmidt reported there is still one resident that has not complied.

Alderman Wise encouraged everyone to sign up for the e-newsletter from the website. Wise noted the soldier killed in Afghanistan was a brother of a Sterling resident.

Alderman Martin remarked that he attended the jazz concert and was very impressed with Josh Duffy, a drummer who learned from Louis Bellson.

Mayor Lee thanked the first responders for their efforts during extremely busy time. Mayor Lee and Manager Shumard expressed concerns IEPA shared about the Lawrence Brothers grant.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk