

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 20, 2018. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Allen Lee, Band Commissioner, reported a successful 90th summer season for the Municipal Band. Lee thanked Public Works and Finance Department for their help throughout the season. Lee also thanked Mayor Lee and Alderman Elston for presenting guest conductors with "Keys to the City". Lee also thanked Janna Groharing for her help with the promotions. This year there was pre-concert entertainment along with a Children's Concert. Lee also thanked Smoked on 3rd for serving beer and wine.

Shirley Sharp stated that she enjoys the concerts but does not believe it is appropriate for beer and wine with so many children present. Alcohol is out of place.

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

- A) Council Minutes from August 6, 2018
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$656,308.44

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Stauter stated the Band Commission paid Sterling Main Street \$918 for a liquor license and wanted to know what the revenues were. Allen Lee indicated he would have to get those numbers. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Agreement to Provide Transportation Engineering Services for the Lynn Boulevard and LeFevre Road Intersection in the amount of \$99,950, subject to attorney approval; seconded by Alderman Wise. Manager Shumard explained with Halo and future developments in the area, the round-about provides a Grade "A" intersection compared to a current Grade "F". Alderman Stauter asked if other engineering firms were considered. Shumard stated the engineering costs for the round-about on Wallace were about the same so these engineering costs are in line. Alderman Wise wants the detours outlined clearly for

residents' ease in traveling through during construction. Shumard was informed from the engineers that one lane could probably be kept open. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard explained the Mural Commission is vacant and with the City's process outlined by City Code, there is no one to review this mural. Alderman Wise asked if the City Council can review in the absence of a Mural Commission. Attorney Zollinger stated the Mural Commission would bring a recommendation to the Council and in its absence the Council could make the recommendation to Code Enforcement to issue a permit. Alderman Stauter does not feel qualified to determine the content of a mural. Mayor Lee stated that no one is stepping up for the Mural Commission and asked if the Council is supportive of this mural. Attorney Zollinger stated it does fall on the Council by default.

Alderman Elston asked if these are native flowers. Artist, Anne Hermes, stated that some are native to Illinois.

Janna Groharing, Main Street Director, asked why there is a question because the owner is "painting" his home.

Attorney Zollinger stated the City has a vested interest in uniformity and dealing with murals and/or signs painted directly onto exterior walls. Superintendent Schmidt stated this design was not the original submission. Artwork is up to the individual.

Alderman Martin does not feel this mural meets the five criteria outlined by City Code and would like input from the public. Attorney Zollinger assured Martin that criteria does not need to be met in totality.

Alderman Wilen does not see historical value in this mural. She would like to see the Mural Commission re-established.

Alderman Wise feels strongly about having this mural done, especially if Lawrence Brothers is taken down. It would be a great view from Rock Falls.

Anne Hermes, explained that she has done studies from other communities. It can be a tourist attraction, not meant to be offensive or controversial.

Kris Noble, Chamber Director, stated it would be a split vote if you talked with people. Some will love it and others will hate it. We need to be progressive and step out of the box. Don't overthink this.

Anne Hermes explained permission to close the street is essential to stay on her timeline.

Superintendent Schmidt explained she had exchanged emails with Mayor Lee and Manager Shumard. They were in agreement that it was not a mural like others in the downtown.

Chief Morgan stated Deputy Chief Chavira had spent plenty of time with Hermes to prepare for the road closure. There will be little effect on traffic. Morgan is thankful for a private citizen investing in beautifying the City.

Manager Shumard explained the process exists and cautioned that the City does not want a bad reflection from a decision. Mayor Lee stated the process is undoable. Our economic development people have no problems with this mural. Lee sees no loss to the City.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve the application for a mural on the silo in the 200 block of Third Avenue and for the closure of the north lane of Second Street when equipment is present; seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Martin stated he was swayed by Anne Hermes's information. Chief Morgan asked if there were plans for illumination. Hermes replied there is not illumination planned and thanked the Council and staff for their time. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Elston, Martin, and Wise. Nays – Alderman Wilen. Abstain – Alderman Stauter. Motion carried.

Clerk Rombouts reminded everyone that petitions to circulate for offices of Mayor and Aldermen of Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 would be available on August 28.

Chief Morgan announced the last summer cook-out will be Wednesday.

Superintendent Schmidt announced the Coventry Plat has been signed by the City and delivered to Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson to return to the owners.

Alderman Martin reminded everyone the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4, because of the Labor Day holiday. Martin mentioned the Sterling Optimist helped with the Police Department Bike Ride. Chief Morgan stated there were over 40 participants and hope to grow.

Alderman Elston reported Band Concerts and Movies are done for the summer. It was a great concert season. National Night Out was very well attended. Janna Groharing added that the last pop-up market will be Thursday.

Chief Morgan reported that one of the best solicitors registered this week. He's a student and very nice.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:40 pm to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, 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 8:56 pm; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Open meeting reconvened.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve a 4.5% increase for the City Manager, retroactive to May 1, 2018; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk