

Vice-Mayor Joe Martin called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: Mayor "Skip" Lee and 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, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom Brackemeyer, 1512 Fifth Avenue, asked how the City could construct a roundabout on LeFevre and let the two blocks of poor sidewalks remain between Fourth and Sixth Avenues on East LeFevre.

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

- A) Council Minutes from August 20, 2018
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$545,483.09
- C) Route and Date for Sterling High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 28, 2018 at 3:30 pm
- D) Route and Date for Newman High School Homecoming Parade on October 5, 2018 at 2:00 pm
- E) Petition from Knights of Columbus to hold a bucket brigade on Friday, September 14, 2018
- F) Refer Petition from Casey's General Store at 2806 East Fourth Street to Plan Commission for a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting of September 20, 2018 to annex and zone property as CB (Community Business)
- G) Partial Pay Request #2 for Twin City Construction in the amount of \$93,709.26 for the 2018 Street Project Contract #1

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

Deputy Chief Dettman introduced Tanner Seidel. Clerk Rombouts administered the Oath of Office for Firefighter Seidel.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept the Proclamation declaring September 10 through September 14, 2018 as Chamber of Commerce Week; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Vice-Mayor Martin read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Wise made a motion to award the low bid of \$865,700.00 to Twin City Construction for Phase I of the Dillon Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Wise asked how much work will be completed before construction season ends. Manager Shumard explained he would know more after the pre-construction conference in two weeks. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2018-09-15 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Real Estate at 805 Maple Lane**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Alderman Wise asked how the proceeds from the sale of this property would be used. Superintendent Schmidt reported it would be used for more demolitions. Attorney Zollinger reported after the bids were accepted, the sale would be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Council. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2018-09-16 Authorizing Exclusive Easement to Northern Illinois Gas Company (NICOR Gas Company) for laying, maintaining, operating, renewing, replacing and removing gas mains**; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Alderman Wise expressed concern that the easement may interfere with Riverfront development. Manager Shumard assured that the easement is to the west of the development and runs along the fence line of Sterling Steel in a setback area. Attorney Zollinger applauded Manager Shumard for negotiations with NICOR. NICOR offered \$50,000 toward a path of the City's choice. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to reject all bids for the Sterling Public Market and rebid the project at a later date; seconded by Alderman Wise. Manager Shumard explained contractors are busy with big jobs and the deadline would have required overtime. Plans are to rebid in November. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard reported Brick Boss contacted the City regarding the culvert/storm water work on his property at 2607 East Lincolnway. He has received the permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR). He is requesting an additional

\$22,000 because when the work was stopped, he has incurred additional costs. Shumard admitted this project is saving us money but the water is flowing again and it is private property. Alderman Wise asked why the engineer did not warn him of an IDNR permit. Attorney Zollinger stated it was the responsibility of his engineer to take care of that.

Manager Shumard explained City code outlines that a landlord is responsible for unpaid sewer and garbage bills for their rental properties. Terri Schmitt expressed concern because her tenants, State of Illinois, are behind on their bills. Manager Shumard asked if this should be handled differently. Council asked that he prepare an agreement based on what other communities have done.

Alderman Wilen reported that Police Officer Josh Weber gave a Kiwanis program this morning and wanted to acknowledge the great job and enthusiasm that Weber displayed.

Alderman Elston reported the last pop up market took place Thursday. They had excellent music there. Elston asked Manager Shumard to recap the information on the roundabout. Manager Shumard explained Aldermen had received complaints about the future roundabout and how it will affect businesses along West LeFevre, especially Astec with large equipment being shipped. Shumard stated that he had a phone call with the engineer and logistics person at Astec. All loads can be accommodated on the proposed roundabout. Elston reported the Fiesta parade is September 15.

Alderman Stauter reported liquor license expenses for the Band Commission were \$600 and there were no revenues from liquor sales at the municipal band concerts. Director Von Holten confirmed Stauter's report and stated that donations/revenues were down by \$5000 compared to last year. Janna Groharing stated she worked with the band and Smoked on 3rd but was under the impression that it was not about raising funds but increasing attendance. Vice-Mayor Martin stated the Special Event License is for fundraising by non-profit organizations.

Alderman Wise asked when the City may be fixing the sidewalk along LeFevre that Brackemeyer referred to. It is a high visibility area, especially when events are held at the Sterling High School Stadium. A set-in curb could be placed to create better aesthetics. Superintendent Schrader believes the set-in curb could cost as much as reconstructing the sidewalk. Wise would like to see some of the 1/2% sales tax used on the sidewalk and Johnson Avenue to improve the City's image to visiting communities. Manager Shumard stated when the Council passed the 1/2% sales tax in 2004, it was designated for streets and the second 1/2% was designated for

stormwater. Sidewalks are only considered when part of the street reconstruction. Alderman Stauter asked how the City can continue spending money on all of these proposed projects when there is no money available.

Alderman Elston made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:31 pm to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. There will be no business to follow the closed session.

Alderman Wise made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the regular Council meeting at 8:03 pm; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Open meeting reconvened.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk