

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 20, 2017. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Director of 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.

There were no communications from Visitors.

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

- A) Minutes from November 6, 2017
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$882,396.85
- C) Resolution #R2017-11-28 Motor Fuel Tax Fund for General Maintenance in the amount of \$266,00 for the year of 2018**
- D) Sterling Fire Department to hold a bucket brigade on December 9, 2017
- E) Partial Pay Request #3 for 2017 ADA Project to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$52,032.17
- F) Partial Pay Request #2 for 2017 Street Resurfacing Project for Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$163,574.98

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

Brian Frickenstein and Geoff Smith with Willett, Hofmann & Associates presented information on the proposed bike trail along East Second Street from First Avenue to the Dillon Home. This trail would complete part of the loop from the Upper Dam to First Avenue into Rock Falls at the RB&W Park or Sterling's riverfront (the former Northwestern Steel & Wire site). A 10' concrete trail would be constructed along the south side of East Second Street with a 5' parkway to the curb. Existing parking would remain the same. Estimated cost for the trail is \$1.1 million. If approved, the grant would finance 80% of this project and leave the City approximately \$200,000 to finance. Frickenstein reported the connection across First Avenue has not been finalized. Alderman Wise asked about the key component for this grant. Smith stated it is the trail itself and connectivity with the other trails.

Joe Machan resides on the east end of Second Street and expressed concern about the trail being shared by bicyclists and pedestrians. Pam Machan stated she is representing

905, 907 and 909 East Second Street. She has lived at 903 East Second Street for two years. These historical homes need protection. There is limited off-street parking and on-street parking is necessary for any visitors. If the sidewalk is replaced, will trees be removed? Geoff Smith stated parking will remain as it is. Pam Machan asked if speed bumps could be installed to slow traffic.

Roy Nysather in the 800 block of East Second Street is concerned about safety for the trail because he is aware of a couple of accidents with DUI drivers hitting parked cars.

Pam Machan asked what the trail would be built with and if they would be responsible for clearing snow from the trail. Frickenstein stated the trail would be 5" thick concrete. Manager Shumard stated the Park District currently clears snow from the bike trails.

Scott Hibbard has property between Fourth and Seventh Avenues on East Second Street and wanted to know if the City would be working on grants to clean up the housing stock in the area while constructing the trail.

Alderman Stauter asked if the new parking spaces would be marked. He feels space can be lost if marked. Geoff Smith stated it is the City's decision if they want the stalls marked.

Mayor Lee understood two concerns from citizens about parking spaces and speed. Frickenstein noted the street will be narrower which should help to calm traffic.

Rod Nysather asked if more stop signs could be installed to deter drive-thru traffic and slow it down. Charlene Nysather asked why there were no speed limit signs along East Second Street. If traffic could be encouraged to use Third and Fourth Streets, they would be traveling through the business district and supporting the community.

Shirley Sharp asked where this money is coming from. She stated the City should forget the trail and work on our roads.

Alderman Wise asked if parking permits could be assigned for residential use along Second Street. Attorney Zollinger reported permits could be assigned by ordinance.

Manager Shumard informed the Council that the Park District is seeking a grant for the trail to extend from Lynn Boulevard to West Third Street.

Alderman Wise asked if we would proceed on Second Street without the grant. Manager Shumard was unsure.

Richard Byone with WIXN asked if there will be bike trails around the City. Manager Shumard stated plans are to have trails from Lynn Boulevard to Hoover Park.

Pam Machan clarified that the younger generation looks for a community that is bike-able and walkable. If you want today's youth to come back to Sterling, you need to make it better and appealing to them.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass **Resolution #R2017-11-27 Celebrating Illinois' Bicentennial**; seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Conklin made a motion to waive the bid process and purchase thirty-two (32) portable Kenwood radios and all associated peripheral equipment from Lectronics, Inc. in the amount of \$25,760; seconded by Alderman Martin. Chief Morgan stated that all radios will be replaced by using funds from the Blackhawk Area Task Force. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Schmidt reported the last week of yard waste pick-up will be December 4 through 8. She also reported that the house at 614 West Third Street has been demolished.

Several Aldermen relayed compliments on the new Christmas decorations.

Alderman Elston enjoyed the Christmas Walk and encouraged everyone to shop local.

Alderman Conklin asked about the Public Works sign.

Mayor Lee thanked Public Works, Fire, and Police for their efforts during the holiday festivities. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm to a closed session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body according to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5); seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 8:22 pm; seconded by Alderman Wise. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk