

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 20, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, 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, 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.

There were no Communications from Visitors.

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

- A) Minutes of January 6, 2020
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$553,411.03
- C) Bid for General Maintenance materials from Civil Materials:
  - 1. Bituminous Patching Mixture (Group I), 250 tons @ \$90.00/ton
  - 2. Bituminous Mixture Complete, 200 tons @ \$52.00/ton
  - 3. Aggregate Surface Course, Type B (CA-6), 3300 tons @ \$6.75/ton
- D) Change Order for Porter Brothers on the Public Market in the amount of \$13,409
- E) Pay Request #6 for Sterling Public Market to Porter Brothers in the amount of \$12,738.55
- F) **Resolution #R2020-01-01 to sell surplus City property** – concrete garbage cans
- G) **Resolution #R2020-01-02 Referring consideration to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling** (property along Lynn Boulevard east of Freeport Road and property in the 1700 block of Oak Grove Avenue)

Motion 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 Proclamation Recognizing Monday, January 20, 2020 as Martin Luther King Day; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee reported that he had attended the Martin Luther King Day Celebration at the Big Red Church on Sunday and presented the proclamation.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-01-03 Creating Additional License Classification for Grocery Store On-Premise Consumption of Beer and Wine**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Mayor Lee stated the grocery industry is in great flux. People are looking for an experience in a grocery store. With dollar stores providing groceries, it takes away business from grocery stores. Savana has a store with the on-premises consumption and has no issues.

Alderman Wilen expressed several concerns:

Why is only one grocery store having difficulties?

She feels this matter has not been properly reviewed.

This could allow more gaming devices that we do not need.

Will alcohol be limited to a room or throughout the store?

What hours will alcohol be served?

Alderman Elston was concerned about alcohol and gaming devices but has seen it in other stores. No problems have arisen. Elston does not want to see a dark store.

Alderman Johnson stated County Market has completely remodeled and the alcohol will be in a separate room.

Alderman Stauter has seen other grocery stores that have alcohol and has not seen any problems. Stauter wants the City to be fair and work with other businesses that are looking for alternatives to bring in revenue.

Alderman Wise asked if the state sets the size of store or if that is a City determination. Attorney Zollinger stated it is a size determined by the City. Wise asked if G-4 hours would be the same as other liquor establishments. Zollinger stated sales will be defined by City code. Stores must have adequate space for machines based on state regulations. Wise asked if gaming is a definite step. Manager Shumard believes they are leaning that way. Wise agreed that what is good for one store is good for all.

Voting on **Ordinance #2020-01-03 Creating Additional License Classification for Grocery Store On-Premise Consumption of Beer and Wine**: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, and Wise. Nays – Alderman Wilen. Motion carried.

Attorney Zollinger reported if all goes well, the City will be closing on the National Stanley building on January 31. Alderman Elston asked if security will be continued. Chief Morgan stated they are working on having a remote Police substation. Officers would spend some time in the building doing paperwork.

Manager Shumard reminded Council of a special joint meeting on February 10 with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber, Sterling Main Street, and Greater Sterling Development Corporation. There will be fact finding meetings with Hunden, working on the riverfront development with Gary Anderson Architects. Budget meetings will start in February. Bonds are ready to be issued. Surveys were delivered to residents on First Avenue between Fifth Street and LeFevre for feedback on First Avenue becoming a two-way street.

Alderman Elston asked about vehicles parking on snow routes and not adhering to odd/even parking. Chief Morgan encouraged people use the City app to report vehicles in the way.

Manager Shumard reminded everyone that salt quits working when temperatures drop below 20 degrees.

Alderman Johnson announced that a check for \$49,140 was presented to the Sterling Park District for the dog park. He thanked Kris Noble and Janna Groharing for their help in this endeavor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk