

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 18, 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 February 3, 2020 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020

B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$714,691.30

C) Refer Petition from Two4Five LLC, to rezone 202 Fourth Avenue to the Plan Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2020

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

Chief Morgan distributed the new trading cards for the Police officers are.

Alderman Elston appreciated last week's meeting with the Chamber and Main Street. She would like to work on the snow shoveling and cigarette butts in the downtown.

Alderman Martin asked if the City's website listed the holidays for the garbage company. Manager Shumard verified it is on the website and would assure that it is also on the phone app.

Mayor Lee reported that Manager Shumard attended a County Dispatch meeting but nothing was addressed. The agreement states that by May 1 an equitable billing arrangement will be worked out.

Meeting adjourned to a budget study session at 6:38 pm.

Manager Shumard reviewed the following funds:

General Fund – EAV increased this year. Sales tax is lower than expected. Other sales tax, such as video gaming and internet sales continue to increase. Franchise fees decreased slightly. Cafeteria fines have decreased with the legalization of cannabis. Zollinger believes court fines are down because courts cannot be as aggressive on collecting fines.

There's a meeting on health insurance tomorrow for more information. General insurance may increase by 9%. IT has budgeted for a new website. Plan Commission budget is over because of the Comprehensive Plan update. Mayor and Council training budget should not run as high next year. City Clerk's salary is less with a new clerk coming on board. Administration services salaries have increased because the Part-time Assistant will be going Full-time later in the year. IT will be purchasing less equipment. Fire Services is up because of overtime; a Captain has been off, which requires overtime pay for an officer to step up. Police Administration will be increasing because the City will be paying for all training. The Police force was at full staff and one officer has left. There is a spot reserved in training for a replacement. With a full force, squad cars are being used more. An additional squad will be purchased and a new detective's vehicle will be eliminated.

Mayor Lee asked if any kind of testing has been devised for cannabis. Morgan stated there is not yet but money is budgeted in case one becomes available.

There was discussion on County 911 System. Dispatchers cost approximately \$390,000 before we consolidated. Costs are now about \$557,000.

Distinctive Gardens will be caring for the downtown area. Two less part-time summer help will be hired in Public Works.

Aldermen Wilen and Wise will be attending the landlord association on Thursday with hopes to work on an ordinance for property inspections.

Alderman Wilen asked that Council members keep all informed on projects they are working on. Mayor Lee stated it is difficult to report until things are moving.

Coliseum Fund – maintenance of the Coliseum and repayment of the bonds. City will realize savings from reissuing these bonds.

CBD East TIF District – Lawrence Lofts were completed. The developers are reimbursed as we go along.

Solid Waste – Fees will rise to keep up with increased cost to recycle and the annual increase.

Police Pension and Fire Pension – Additional funds are building on the bottom lines.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk