

Mayor Charles L. "Skip" Lee called a virtual meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 18, 2020. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Josh Johnson, Joe Martin, John Stauter, Christine Wilen, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

Also attending were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Scott Howard, 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 May 4, 2020
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$2,849,308.35

Motion seconded by Alderman Stauter. Questions were raised about the payment to 911 TwinCom. Attorney Zollinger stated the City has put the County on notice they are in breach of the contract because an equitable solution for billing has not been instituted. Rock Falls did the same. If the City withheld payment until this is resolved, it would have put the City in breach of the contract. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2020-05-17 Authorizing Entry into a Master Small Wireless Facilities Agreement Implementing Agreement with US Cellular for Installation of Small Wireless Facilities;** seconded by Alderman Martin. Attorney Zollinger summarized this agreement covers five years and each facility will be under an individual agreement. 15 to 20 facilities are proposed. There is an annual fee and conditions for removal of the facility when no longer in use. Facilities are approximately 3' tall and resemble a utility transformer with spikes. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to adopt the policy governing the Sterling Marketplace Rental Procedures; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Manager Shumard informed the Council this policy was touched up from what was presented before. Janna Groharing reported the Farmers Market was a success for the first of the season. Only six vendors were there but sold out by 10:30. While keeping social distancing and mask wearing in mind, approximately 200 people showed to support local businesses.

Groharing is hoping for six more vendors this week. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wise made a motion to enter into a contract with Redzone Robotics for a System-Wide Sewer Assessment in the amount of \$1,099,948.990, payable in five annual payments of \$219,989.78; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Manager Shumard explained we had purchased flow meters to attempt this job on a case-by-case study across the City. The flow meters failed to give us the necessary information. The flow meters were returned. This comprehensive study will give us the information we need to move forward with reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I). Superintendent Howard cautioned the study is the first investment. The next investment is correcting these issues. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Johnson, Martin, Stauter, Wilen, and Wise. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook announced his upcoming retirement and was honored to serve the City of Sterling. Mayor Lee thanked Cook for his service. Cook took over the joint command and brought unity for both fire departments and cities.

Attorney Zollinger acknowledged the continued debate in Springfield about Emergency Rule modifications over COVID-19. Representative Demmer from Dixon will be serving on this committee; Zollinger encouraged anyone with concerns to contact Demmer.

Alderman Elston is pleased to see construction moving along throughout the City.

Mayor Lee noted interviews have begun for the City Clerk's position.

Manager Shumard announced the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association will conduct the search for the joint command fire chief. Shumard stated the City will be holding a hearing to pursue a grant for the Shovel Ready Site Rebuild Illinois to work on the Lawrence Brothers site. Shumard hopes to bring all staff back to the work by the end of the month. There will be a virtual wrap-up meeting for the riverfront study on June 3. The City's website has the link for small businesses to access information on the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program through the state.

Chief Morgan noted the National building has cameras and computers installed so a police satellite office will be up and running next week.

Mayor Lee asked everyone to remember Mayor Wescott's mother and Glenn Kuhlemier, who are both in Hospice care.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk