

A meeting of the Sterling City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on June 2, 2003, by Mayor Ted Aggen. Present: Mayor Aggen, Aldermen Adell, Chevalier, Cox, Francis, Martin and Viering.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mary Maloney, at 808 East 15th Street, communicated her discontent with the cost of garbage and leaf bags, as well as water and sewer charges. She had performed a survey amongst her family, outside the area, and feels that our rates are high and our program for yard waste and garbage removal is costly and annoying.

Manager Wieland explained that the water rates are governed by a private company and their rates include a profit margin. The Illinois Commerce Commission regulates the rates of private utilities. Communities that provide their own water, can supplement costs with taxes and are not looking for a profit. Manager Wieland continued by stating that our sewer rates are lower than most communities. Sterling has raised rates to cover the costs of upgrading the sewer system and to comply with environmental requirements.

Community Services Director Vern Gottle explained that in 1989 and 1990, the City of Sterling responded to nation-wide concerns regarding the lack of landfills. The communities of Sterling, Rock Falls, Fulton and Morrison worked together on a solution. The volume-based program using bags was agreed upon. The bags are not biodegradable and are no longer see-thru. The bags are paying for the service of garage removal, not tax money. The City did pick up leaves at the curb, but the program was ineffective, expensive and labor intensive. Manager Wieland commented that the community he worked for prior to the City of Sterling picked up leaves. Their experience was costly and hazardous. The community charged \$36 yearly to each resident and still required \$56,000 in taxes to support the program. Piles of leaves attract children and one child was nearly picked up by the equipment while removing leaves.

Alderman Chevalier suggested that yard waste could be placed in plastic containers, marked with an "X".

Alderman Cox informed Maloney that she may contact the Illinois Commerce Commission pertaining to utility rates. Cox also reminded everyone that the City's bag system was designed to reduce costs for residents creating less garbage because of the "pay as you throw" system. The system was designed to help senior citizens by not paying the same rates as a family, which produces more garbage.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows; seconded by Alderman Viering. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

- 1) City Council Minutes of May 19, 2003
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$270,330.74
- 3) Petition from Charles Davis to connect property at 1717 Woodburn Avenue to City sanitary sewer
- 4) Petition from Charles Davis to connect property at 1719 Woodburn Avenue to City sanitary sewer
- 5) Petition from Norden Scanlan to connect property at 1730 Griswold Avenue to City sanitary sewer

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2003-06-26 to annex and zone certain properties located along Woodburn, Griswold and Dillon Avenues, plus an area of Maple Lane, not currently in the City limits. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Mayor Aggen asked for comment from the Council or citizens present.

Jerry Schrader at 1604 Dillon Avenue asked how his taxes would be affected. Manager Wieland stated that the rural fire district levy would be deleted from his tax bill and the City's levy would be added. Schrader asked if fire hydrants would be installed. Fire Chief Oetting stated that the department is reviewing these areas and hopes to install hydrants at approximately every 800'. Schrader asked about the fire classification. Manager Wieland stated that the City's fire classification is higher than the rural district. Schrader stated that his savings in insurance could offset the tax increase.

Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Chevalier made a motion to approve the petition to hold a 5K run in conjunction with the Mexican Fiesta Parade on Saturday, September 13, 2003; seconded by Alderman Martin.

Dr. Finney explained that this is a fundraising event for the Sauk Foundation. The race would start in Sterling, follow the parade route to Rock Falls, turn around and finish in Sterling. Alderman Martin asked if this would interfere with the line-up for the parade. Chief Potthoff stated that parade entries would be lined up on side streets and the race would not interfere with them. Jane Saldivar stated that most entries would come from the 12th Avenue/Avenue G bridge and would not be affected.

Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Chevalier made a motion to pass Resolution No. R2003-06-17 to close streets for the Mexican Fiesta Parade on September 13, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Viering.

Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Wieland reported that he had a productive meeting with Sterling Steel and Leggett & Platt on Monday. The City should receive word about our Brownfield grants in the next two to three weeks.

Mayor Aggen read a letter from the USEPA. The letter gave high praise to Manager Wieland for his work on the Brownfield grants.

Alderman Chevalier asked Librarian Jennifer Slaney to inform the Council of the upcoming event, sponsored by the Library. Slaney informed the Council of the Storytelling Festival, "A Bit of Old and a Bit of New", to be held on Saturday, August 30, in Gartner Park. There will be five nationally-known storytellers.

Alderman Adell reminded everyone that the Municipal Band Concerts begin on Wednesday evening.

Alderman Viering made a motion to adjourn to a Closed Session at 7:12 p.m., to discuss personnel matters and collective bargaining, as provided for under 5ILCS 120/2a.; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made the motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the regular Council Meeting at 7:28 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Adell. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Closed Session Adjourned.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve a 5% salary increase to Manager Wieland; seconded by Alderman Adell. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Meeting adjourned.

Marie Rombouts, Deputy City Clerk