

Mayor Viering called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2007. Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Adell, Cox, Elston, Lee, Martin and Sotelo.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Jay Wieland, Assistant City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Fire Chief Arlyn Oetting, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, Director of Community Services Vern Gottel and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

No Communications from Visitors.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- 1) City Council Minutes of September 17, 2007
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$376,146.27
- 3) Petition to allow Sterling High School to hold their annual Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- 4) Petition to allow the Sterling Noon Lions' Club to solicit donations for candy at Second Street/Second Avenue on Friday, November 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 5) Petition from Sterling High School to block off the parking area on the south side of Miller Road by the tennis courts for an NCIC Conference Tennis Tournament

The motion was seconded by Alderman Lee. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Adell made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 7 – 13, 2007, as Fire Prevention Week, seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Viering read the Proclamation into the record.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Audit of the Annual Financial Reports for FY 2006/07; seconded by Alderman Martin. Jerry Funk with Lindgren, Callihan, VanOsdol & Co. stated that the financial reports are in conformity and meet the reporting requirements under GASB 34. Manager Wieland pointed out that the management letter mentioned only two points of concern. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2007-10-24 Granting a Special Use Permit for Illinois American Water to construct and operate a .5 mg public water supply storage tank and booster station on property known as 3313 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (River Road)**; seconded by Alderman Adell.

Mayor Viering reminded everyone that the public hearing on this matter was held at the Plan Commission meeting but the Council would accept comments from residents. Jim Plass at 3212 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street stated that he wants to see the City grow but this is not the place for this water tank. It is sandwiched between two residential areas. Taxes are too high and the tank will diminish property values. This tank will be in his back yard. Plass asked if this is the only site or the "preferred" site. Plass stated that he and his neighbors could live with a 24' aboveground tank.

Cyrus Kooshesh of 1812 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue stated that he and Jim Plass are speaking on behalf of their neighbors. Kooshesh stated that this water tank will devalue properties along Reno Road and the Tori Pines Subdivision. When property values decline, the City also loses. Kooshesh would like the tank shortened to 24' above ground.

Alderman Elston asked Kevin Whitehouse with Illinois American Water Company (IAWC) what it would cost to lower the tank to 24'. Whitehouse stated that to reduce the height from 32' to 24' would cost an additional \$250,000 and IAWC feels that this is too significant to pass along to customers, in light of their rate increase request.

Alderman Lee asked why two tanks were proposed. Whitehouse explained that one tank was requested with a possibility of a second tank in the future. This location was chosen because it is close enough to the water pressure zone. If the tank was built by the Sterling Commons, the water pressure would not be great enough.

Alderman Cox asked if this would provide water to the Candlelight Manor Subdivision. Whitehouse stated that it would support that area.

Alderman Elston stated that she had received many calls and letters on this issue. She worked with Manager Wieland and Kevin Whitehouse to answer these questions and concerns. Alderman Elston stated that fire safety will be greatly increased with this water tank and pressure booster.

Mayor Viering accepted a petition on behalf of the City Council from the residents of Tori Pines Subdivision and Reno Road requesting a 24' structure.

Voting on approval of **Ordinance #2007-10-24**: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2007-10-25 Expanding a Special Use Permit for the Whiteside County Senior Center at 1207 West**

**Ninth Street;** seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to approve the Final Pay Request for Streetscape Phase VI in the amount of \$176,912.66 to U.C. Paving, Inc.; seconded by Alderman Cox. Manager Wieland asked Director of Community Services Vern Gottel if Commonwealth Edison had moved the poles. Gottel stated that the power poles had been pulled for work to be completed. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Final Plat of the Johnson Addition Subdivision located on the north side of Science Ridge Road between Sixth Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to accept the proposal of Sterling Commercial Roofing in the amount of \$56,900 and authorize staff to proceed with the replacement of the roof on the main station and renew seams and flashing on the sub-station to extend that roof's life by a minimum of 10 years; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Attorney Coplan stated that he missed the last meeting but reviewed the minutes regarding the letter of objection on the IAWC rate increase to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is good to let the ICC know of our concerns but to prepare a detailed letter would be technical and voluminous. It would be a duplication of the ICC's work. Manager Wieland stated that he had prepared a draft letter and it would be ready for the Council's review at the next study session.

Manager Wieland thanked the Council for working with him over the last 9-1/3 years. Wieland believed that he had been able to toughen up Mayor Viering during Mayor Aggen's absence. Thanks to Aldermen Adell, Cox and Martin for taking a chance on a country boy from Kansas. Wieland stated that it was a pleasure to work with the Council. He thanked Coplan for the fun in finding the gray areas. Wieland thanked the staff for making him a better manager.

Mayor Viering announced that there would be a public reception for City Manager Jay Wieland and his wife, Peg, on Friday, October 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Coliseum Auditorium.

Alderman Lee recognized Alderman Adell and his wife, Bev on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Alderman Sotelo thanked Manager Wieland for his efforts in working with the Council.

Alderman Elston thanked Manager Wieland for the help that he has given her while serving on the Council.

Alderman Martin stated that he had been on the Council when Manager Wieland was hired and felt that he could look back and realize that he had helped make a good decision on hiring Manager Wieland.

Alderman Cox echoed Alderman Martin's comments and hoped that they could do as well again.

Alderman Adell thanked Manager Wieland for always being there with the answers he needed.

Alderman Cox made a motion to adjourn to closed session at 7:19 p.m. to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (2) of 5ILCS 120/2; seconded by Alderman Lee. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 9:05 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Lee made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Adell. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk