

Vice-Mayor Joe Martin called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2008. Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Adell, Cox, Elston, Lee, and Sotelo. Absent: Mayor Amy Viering.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, Director of Community Services Vern Gottel and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C, Rock Falls, spoke as President of the Sauk Valley Landlords' Association. He stated that the landlords want to make the Council aware of the rental inspection program that has been proposed. A blue binder was waiting for each Council member. There is information for the Aldermen to review and then discuss with the landlords. The binder includes news releases from Code Enforcement and the City Manager on the inspection program. Kleckler asked Aldermen to review the International Property Maintenance Code and determine if their homes would comply with these standards. Kleckler stated that these poor economic times are not right for starting this rental inspection program because of the cost to the City, as well as the burden to the landlords.

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

- 1) City Council Minutes of December 1, 2008
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$455,206.57
- 3) Plan Commission Minutes from October 16, 2008

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

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve Mayor Viering's recommendation to reappoint Arlo Millican to the Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board, with a term to expire 10/30/2010; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to pass the Proclamation declaring January as National Mentoring Month; seconded by Alderman Adell. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Vice-Mayor Martin asked Alderman Cox to introduce two of the area's international students. Alderman Cox recognized Rodrigo and Daniel for their participation in the Neighborhood Watch at Propheter Park. Alderman Cox named Rodrigo and Daniel as honorary citizens and presented them with a key to the City. Alderman Cox admitted that it was the best neighborhood watch meeting that he had attended. At the

meeting, Rodrigo and Daniel told about their countries and interaction with Police in their countries.

Alderman Lee recognized Carla as an international student in Rock Falls who is from Munich. Julie Fowler, the International Student Coordinator, stated what a wonderful program it is and encouraged more people to participate.

Vice-Mayor Martin introduced Mitch Furllett and Andre De Rosa of Green Ideas, Inc. for their presentation on the application of wind power for Sterling. De Rosa explained that renewable energy development is important. Green Ideas can determine the viability of wind. The company looks at different scenarios and how to start up. Alderman Cox asked about the rural wind farms. Green Ideas stated that turbines can be from 18" to 200' tall. Manager Shumard stated that the City would look at on-site, smaller turbines at multiple locations. De Rosa stated that they recommend starting on a small scale. Alderman Cox asked about the expenses. DeRosa stated that a study can cost approximately \$82,000. Grants may reduce that to \$30,000. Manager Shumard admitted that City staff would need to review these proposals and compare costs. Alderman Adell asked what part would be paid from Federal funds. De Rosa explained that if the stimulus package runs as proposed by President-Elect Obama, \$180 billion could be available to municipalities.

Alderman Cox made a motion to pass **Ordinance No. 2008-12-13, An Amendment to an Ordinance Establishing an Enterprise Zone within the Illinois Counties of Whiteside and Carroll** for the 45.429 acres of property in the Rock Falls Industrial Park and corrections to legal descriptions. The motion was seconded by Alderman Adell. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2008-12-14, Setting forth the 2008 Tax Levy for the City of Sterling** in the amount of \$2,548,799, a 4.97% increase over last year; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Manager Shumard stated that the tax levy has not changed from the estimate. With increases in fire and police pensions and revenues decreasing, Shumard felt that the 4.97% increase is the bare minimum necessary. Alderman Cox expressed concern about the economy and citizens concerned about additional expenses. Manager Shumard stated that assessments will increase by \$2.11. Alderman Lee asked what percentage of property taxes does the City depend on. Manager Shumard stated that the City utilizes property taxes for only 11% of the budget, including the library. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Adell, Elston, Lee, Martin, and Sotelo. Nayses – Alderman Cox. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Final Pay Request in the amount of \$28,225.23 to Twin City Construction for the Polo Road Project; seconded by Alderman Adell. Alderman Cox asked if this was under the original bid. Manager Shumard stated that it came in under the bid amount and extra funding was to cover costs for additional engineering next year if the funds hold out. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Final Pay Request in the amount of \$27,122.85 to Twin City Construction for Contract #1 of the 2008 Street Program; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to approve the Final Pay Request in the amount of \$62,034.32 to Northwest Illinois Construction for Streetscape Phase VII; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Cox expressed concern about Streetscape Phase VIII. Manager Shumard stated that Phase VIII has not been set, it is only proposed and no funding is being approved at this time. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution No. R2008-12-14 authorizing the sale of 1404 East Third Street** to Jane D. Love in the amount of \$1500 and authorize the Mayor to sign a municipal deed transferring the property to Ms. Love; seconded by Alderman Adell. Alderman Elston thanked City staff for getting this property cleaned up and back on the tax rolls. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Clerk Rombouts announced that three people filed papers for the Alderman-at-Large position in the April 2009 election. The candidates are Skip Lee, Linda Marley, and Colin Reynolds.

Manager Shumard reminded citizens that leaf pick-up, if not frozen to the ground, is done for this year. Anyone needing to dispose of yard waste should contact Public Works regarding the landscape waste drop-off site. Shumard reminded the Council of the breakfast with our GSDC partners on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Shumard received a memo of agreement from the attorneys of Plant 1 that was marked up; he sees this as progress. In light of the forecasted snow tomorrow, Shumard reminded citizens to be courteous and shovel their sidewalks.

Alderman Elston thanked the Fire Department on behalf of Mayor Viering, Alderman Lee and herself for the ride on the fire truck during the Seasonal Sights and Sounds parade.

On behalf of Mayor Viering, Vice-Mayor Martin wished everyone a Happy Holiday season!

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Cox made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.