

Vice-Mayor Joe Martin called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2008. Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Elston, Cox, Lee, and Sotelo. Absent: Mayor Viering and Alderman Adell.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mary Carlson of 2004 15th Avenue spoke on behalf of the neighbors in the vicinity of the house located at 2008 15th Avenue. The house was vacant for several years and then occupied recently. The house is in disrepair with broken windows, junk piled up, and vermin running around. The neighbors called the Police Department when the back door was pushed open. Officers entered the house to discover unsanitary living conditions. For a couple of weeks, school-aged children were being left in the house alone at night. Manager Shumard assured Mary Carlson that a letter has been sent to the owner/manager to clean up the property. Code Enforcement will need to inspect the property to determine if the property is uninhabitable.

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

- 1) City Council Minutes of August 18, 2008
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$511,467.00
- 3) Petition to allow Newman High School to hold their annual Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m.
- 4) Petition to close the 200 block of West Second Street on Saturday, September 20, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Twin City Market Fall Harvest Festival
- 5) Refer to Plan Commission a petition from Illinois American Water Company to amend their Special Use Permit at 3313 East 23rd Street

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

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to proclaim September 8 – 12, 2008, as Chamber of Commerce Week; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Vice-Mayor Martin read the Proclamation declaring September 2008 as Pain Awareness Month into the record. Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Alderman Lee. Nancy Lauritzen from CGH Medical Center accepted the Proclamation. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Agreement for Design Engineering Services with Strand Engineering for the Locust Street storm sewer project in the new amount of \$80,600; seconded by Alderman Lee. Alderman Lee asked how we would be able to save money on this project. Director of Community Services Vern Gottel explained that IDOT required extra studies, which will increase engineering costs by \$36,600; however, a vault and 200' of 60" pipe south of Third Street may be eliminated, reducing construction costs by approximately \$198,000. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Oetting reminded the Council that the Latin American Fiesta Parade is on Saturday, September 13 and to let him know who will be riding on the fire truck.

Alderman Elston encouraged everyone to write the Governor opposing the closure of State Parks in our area.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Lee made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Cox. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk