

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 21, 2014. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: Alderman Barry Cox.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Fire Deputy Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) City Council minutes of April 7, 2014
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$753,126.37
- C) Petition from Sterling Kiwanis Club to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser for the Storytelling Festival on Saturday, June 28 at the intersections of Second Avenue/Second Street, Second Avenue/Fourth Street and First Avenue/Third Street from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- D) Petition from Team Underwires to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser on Saturday, May 17 at the following intersection Second Avenue/Second Street and First Avenue/Third Street from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm
- E) Petition from American Legion Auxiliary to hold a bucket brigade fundraiser on Saturday, May 31 at the intersections of First Avenue/Third Street and Second Avenue/Second Street from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- F) Change Order #13 on City Hall remodeling project in the amount of \$47,834.94
- G) Refer Petition to Plan Commission from Richard Ng and Shannon Scalise requesting property at 705 West Third Street be rezoned from B-2-1 to B-3

The motion was seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Gary Cook announced the promotion of Michael Dettman from Administrative Captain to Deputy Fire Chief. Dettman was pinned by his father, Francis Dettman, a retired Sterling Fire Captain.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the Proclamation designating May 11 – 17, 2014 as Police Week and May 15 as Police Officers Memorial Day in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Alderman Martin read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the Newman Scholastic Bowl Team for their achievements; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to approve the Proclamation designating the last Friday in April, 2014, as Arbor Day in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

The budget hearing was opened at 6:47 pm. Manager Shumard presented a summary. The pensions account for 41% of the budget. The General Fund revenues fall \$65,590 short, primarily because of a 17% increase in general liability insurance and 10% was previously estimated. Projects not budgeted are 13 East Fourth Street, Thomas Park, storm sewer upgrades, Grandon Civic Center, riverfront development, and housing grants. Overtime should be less for the Fire and Public Works in the upcoming year. Union contracts have not been settled, so fire and police salaries are only estimates. Solid waste and waste water services charges are being increased. There is an 8% delinquency rate for these utility billings. Fire Pension is the largest deficit. Shumard wanted to forewarn the Council that the tax levy next year will be bad news because of more retirements in the Fire Department.

Mayor Lee reminded everyone that pension funding is mandated by the state and is no reflection on the City's employees. Public hearing closed at 6:58 pm.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-06 Amending Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget in the amount of \$1,173,350**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-07 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget in the amount of \$28,862,839**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-08 Amending Chapter 74 of the Sterling City Code as it relates to Solid Waste**, causing a \$.25 increase in monthly charges; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-09 Amending Chapter 94 of the Sterling City Code as it relates to wastewater service charges and billing and collection**; causing an increase of \$.25 on minimum basic

user charges and a \$.25 increase to the basic user rate per 100 cu. ft.; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the bid for the reconstruction of Woodburn Avenue from 9th Street to 11th Street to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$187,925.32; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Alderman Martin was pleased that the bid was low but was concerned that the engineer's estimate was so much higher. Manager Shumard explained that the engineer's raise the estimate to prevent overspending. Bids that come in lower than expected allow us to do more streets. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-10 Amending Section 94, Article III, of the City Code pertaining to Water Wells**, permitting no potable wells in an area approximately one block surrounding 405 Locust Street; seconded by Alderman Martin. Mayor Lee noted areas like this may occur on occasion and the City will address them as they arise instead of doing a blanket request to connect to public water. Manager Shumard noted this change came about because Taco Bell is purchasing their property and is working towards a "No Further Remediation" status. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the write-off of uncollectible accounts for public billings for FY 2013/14 in the amount of \$6,185.81; seconded by Alderman Martin. Finance Director Von Holten estimated these write-offs to be 5% of the mowing accounts and write-offs have not been done for some time. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2014-04-11 Adopting the FY 2014/2015 Employee Compensation and Classification Plan, for a 1% increase** effective June 11, 2014; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee introduced his Rotary exchange student, Ted Lo. He announced his son, Will's, 29th birthday today. Mayor Lee thanked the Council for their support through his third year and was thankful for what has been accomplished.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:25 pm to discuss employee evaluation or discipline for personnel as covered under subsection (1) of 5ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, and Martin. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 8:10 pm; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, and Martin. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk