

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2025. Roll call. Present: Mayor for the Day Ari, Alderperson Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, Aida Baker, Josh Johnson, Allen Przysucha, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief David Northcutt, Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the **Consent Agenda**:

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C. Resolution 2025-06-19 Regarding the 02% Building and Maintenance Property Tax Levy for the Sterling Public Library.
- D. Lincoln Highway Proclamation.
- E. Petition from Sauk Valley Marines to hold a bucket brigade on June 21, 2025.
- F. Petition from Optimist Club of Sterling to hold a bucket brigade on July 19, 2025.
- G. Rental application from Sterling Noon Rotary for the use of Sterling Marketplace on July 21, 2025, with request to waive deposit and rental fees for the Annual Pork Chop Broil and Corn Boil.
- H. Rental Application from Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce for the use of Sterling Marketplace on August 1, 2025, with request to waive deposit and rental fees for the family fun fair in connection with Hot Dog Days.

Seconded by Alderperson Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Baker, Johnson, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to **approve the Mayor's Appointments and Reappointments to the Boards and Commissions**; Seconded by Alderperson Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Przysucha made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-06-17 Recognizing Deputy Chief Jeff Mohr**; Seconded by Alderperson Elston. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None. Mayor Merdian requested the minutes reflect her vote to approve the Resolution as well.

Chief Chavira thanked Deputy Chief Jeff Mohr for his 28 years of service to the City of Sterling and the residents. Chief Chavira stated, Deputy Chief Mohr brought professionalism, compassion

and a deep understanding of what it means to serve and protect. Chavira thanked Mohr's wife, Amanda, for supporting him throughout his career.

Deputy Chief Mohr thanked Chief Chavira and the City Council for the recognition. Mohr said that no one gets this far in a career without the support of many people to include his family and especially his wife.

Mayor Merdian presented Deputy Chief Mohr with the resolution honoring him.

Aldersperson Elston made a motion to **Waive the Bid Process to Purchase Ice Equipment for the Riverfront Park**; Seconded by Aldersperson Baker. The funding has been secured through the Riverfront Foundation. Aldersperson Strabala-Bright asked if this would be open for the winter season. Shumard said this is the plan, but he is not guaranteeing it. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None

Aldersperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to **Approve the Purchase of the Ice Equipment from Custom Ice Inc. in the Amount of \$416,775**; Seconded by Aldersperson Elston. Shumard advised this does not include the concrete work; a change order will need to be done for that. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Aldersperson Wise made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-06-20 Designating the Riverfront Park as the Northwestern Steel and Wire Park**; Seconded by Aldersperson Elston. Attorney Zollinger advised that the Resolution indicates the recommendation came from the Riverfront Commission, and it was actually at the recommendation of the Riverfront Foundation. Aldersperson Wise amended his motion to approve **Resolution 2025-06-20 Designating the Riverfront Park as the Northwestern Steel and Wire Park, at the Recommendation of the Riverfront Foundation**; Seconded by Aldersperson Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Aldersperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-06-18 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Sterling Fire Department and the City of Rock Falls Fire Department Relating to Shared Equipment**; Seconded by Aldersperson Przysucha. City Manager Shumard advised that the practice of sharing equipment has been occurring. This Resolution will assist if any issues were to arise. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None

Aldersperson Elston made a motion to approve **Pay Request #5 to Hoerr Construction for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Improvements in the Amount of \$20,808.00**; Seconded by

Aldersperson Baker. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Aldersperson Przysucha made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2025-06-25 Annexing Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Sterling Parcel 11-276-004**; Seconded by Aldersperson Wise. The property owner requested the annexation to develop. The plat will be presented to the Council for approval in July. Aldersperson Elston thanked the property owner for the development. The Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw reported that crews continue with general maintenance and upkeep.

Chief Northcutt reported that the two firefighters currently in the academy will graduate on June 26, 2025. The two new hires continue to go through the hiring process. Chief Reeder and Chief Northcutt are working on revisions to the standard operating procedures and guidelines. The Ad for the Deputy Chief position has been posted. Engine two will go back to the company for a structural issue, this should be a three to six-month repair.

Chief Alex Chavira reported that the Police Fire Commission continues to work through the hiring process for the September Police Academy. The cadets currently in the academy will graduate in August. Chavira thanked City staff for asking the department to participate in the Movies in the Park. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5th, from 5:00 to 7:00 at Grandon. Community Service Officer Toth is working on this with the help of other City staff. There will be a breakfast for Jeff Mohr on Wednesday in the training room. The new squads have arrived, and they will be upfitted soon.

Finance Director Cindy Von Holten reported that the staff continues to get ready for the audit, which will be conducted in July. There is a new finance employee, Samantha Boehm. Samantha replaces Rhayne Erickson who moved to the Building Department.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff advised that the registration for IML has opened. If you would like to attend please let the Mayor or Teri know. Sathoff thanked everyone for their patience with the new agenda software as well as the technical difficulties in the Chambers.

City Manager Scott Shumard reported the following;

- Two shade structures have been ordered for the riverfront.
- The concrete was poured for the splash pad.
- Public Works is working on pricing for the amenities for the riverfront.
- Work with Strand on Phase 2 continues.
- The Superintendent of Building and Zoning, Schmidt, and Shumard met with the consultant for the housing study.
- Met with the Main Street Design Committee to continue work on wayfinding signs.
- There is a developer interested in National Buildings One and Two; they are being provided with building plans and the environmental studies.
- IT has installed a new WIFI system in the building.
- IT has installed a new door closing system for Grandon.
- There is a project in the Downtown TIF that will be coming to the Council soon.
- The Grant from the Federal Highway Commission will begin on June 24th.

Aldersperson Elston thanked City staff who volunteered for the movies in the park. Elston reminded everyone about the Municipal Band and the Farmers Market.

Aldersperson Przysucha wanted to pass a long appreciation from a citizen about the work that was done on 16th Avenue. It was completed quickly and is very nice. He advised that he attended the pop-up market to ask the Surf Broadband representative about Strawberry Fields, work should start there this summer. He asked about the progress for the rest of the City and did not receive an answer. He thanked the staff for their participation in the movies in the park.

Przysucha stated he would like to see continued collaboration between the Sterling and Rock Falls Fire Departments as it pertains to the administration.

Aldersperson Wise thanked everyone who played a part in having a tree removed in the area of Wilson Avenue and 9th Street. This tree was a concern to citizens in the area. Wise thanked Sterling Main Street for the Cruise Inn night at the Market Place.

Mayor Ari stated her day “was not that bad.” Mayor Ari’s favorite part was the fire ladder, seeing Millie and getting a donut from the police department.

Mayor Merdian reminded everyone about the open house on June 18, 2025, at the Sterling Township building for the intersection at West Lincolnway and McCue Road and the proposed roundabout. This is an IDOT project.

Mayor Merdian advised the Fire Department will be at the Farmers Market on Saturday with News Channel 8 to collect school supplies for area children.

There will be a Juneteenth celebration on Saturday at Grandon Civic Center.

The Lincoln Highway tour will be in town on Wednesday. They will be presented with their proclamation.

City Manager Shumard, City Clerk Sathoff, Ron Clewer, and she met with a representative from DCEO to discuss the next steps in the River's Edge application process.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk