

Monday, December 20, 2021
City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Council Chambers - First Floor
212 Third Avenue
Zoom Link to join Webinar
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82683317466>
Webinar ID: 826 8331 7466

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : A. Call to Order
Meeting : Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : B. Roll Call
Meeting : Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : C. Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting : Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

2. Communication from Visitors

Subject : A. Public Comment
Meeting : Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Information

File Attachments

[public comment policy.pdf \(75 KB\)](#)

3. Consent Agenda

Subject : A. Approval of Minutes
Meeting : Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Action (Consent)
Recommended Action : Approval of Minutes as presented

File Attachments

[cc12062021 .pdf \(106 KB\)](#)

Consent

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approval of Bills and Payroll as presented

Public Content

File Attachments

[11-30-21 Budget Performance Report.pdf \(397 KB\)](#)

[11-30-21 Balance Sheets.pdf \(335 KB\)](#)

[Accounts Payable by G_L Distribution Report 12_15_2021 3_22_20 PM_Mary McCormick_3D408CLF.pdf \(353 KB\)](#)

[admin_20211215_150740.pdf \(557 KB\)](#)

Consent

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3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	C. Pay Request #4 for Former National Training Building Demolition Renovation to Gehrke Construction in the amount of \$6,694.20.
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approval of Pay Request #4 for Former National Training Building Demolition Renovation to Gehrke Construction in the amount of \$6,694.20.

Public Content

Pay Request #4 covers some interior framing work that has been completed to the building.

File Attachments

[Council Agenda Item - Pay Request #4 Former National Training Building.pdf \(835 KB\)](#)

Consent

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3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	D. Pay Request #1 Twin City Construction in the amount of \$34,290.63 for the riverfront bridge.
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approve Pay Request #1 Twin City Construction in the amount of \$34,290.63 for the riverfront bridge.

Public Content

On October 4th, the Council awarded a bid to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$35,769.80 to install the riverfront pedestrian bridge. The final cost of installation was \$34,390.63. This included transportation, crane and pouring of footings.

File Attachments

[Council Agenda Item - Pay Request Final Riverfront Bridge.pdf \(88 KB\)](#)
[Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge.pdf \(1.107 KB\)](#)

Consent

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3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	E. Pay Request #5 to Martin and Company in the amount of \$591,602.41 for the reconstruction of 1st Avenue
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Staff recommends approval of Pay Request #5 to Martin and Company in the amount of \$591,602.41 for the reconstruction of 1st Avenue

Public Content

City Council awarded a contract to Martin & Company for the reconstruction of 1st Ave in the amount of \$2,486,500. This payment includes work to the sidewalks, storm sewers, and adjustments to manholes as well as traffic signals completed through December 4th. Total payments, including this pay request, represent over 80% of the award. Since December 4th, the project was nearly completed, short of some restoration work.

File Attachments

[Pay request 5 Martin and Co.pdf \(548 KB\)](#)

Consent

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5. Recommended Personnel Action

Subject :	A. Swear in new Police Officers Zachary Muntean and Jonah Venema
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Information

6. Presentations and Awards

Subject :	A. Proclamation Honoring Lexi Rodriguez and making December 21, 2021 as Lexi Rodriguez Day in Sterling
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Information

Public Content

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize Lexi Rodriguez. Lexi is a graduate of Sterling High School and is attending the University of Nebraska. The honors and awards Lexi has received this year include:

- Big 10 Defensive Player of the year
- All-Big 10 First Team
- Big 10 All-Freshman Team
- Big 10 Freshman of the week for 4 weeks
- Big Ten Defensive Player of the week for 2 weeks
- NCAA Volleyball National Freshman of the Year
- Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll

Besides these honors that she received her Freshman year at the University of Nebraska, Lexi was named the 2019 Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year and helped SHS team win the 3A State Championship in 2018 and 2019. MaxPreps named her an All-American twice and named Lexi the Best Player in Illinois in 2020. Lexi played club for the powerhouse Sports Performance Club. Her teams were national finalists four times and they won the gold medal three times. She was named an AAU All-American three times. Lexi was named to the USA Volleyball Youth National Team in 2018 and 2019 and was a member of the

8. Business Items

Subject :	A. Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2021-12-36 in the amount of \$5,412,155
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Approve Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2021-12-36 in the amount of \$5,412,155

Public Content

The projected Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the City is projected to increase approximately 2.8%. Leaving the specific levy rates steady, this will provide a 2.8% increase in dollars for levies such as police protection and fire protection. The aforementioned levy rates are at the Statutory cap, thus the amount collected can only increase through overall growth in property values.

Pension funds do not have levy rate caps under State Statutes in order to provide a guaranteed source of funding for the pensions. The pension funds tax levies have grown far faster than inflation and EAV growth for most of the recent years. The actuary is recommending a minimum contribution to the fire pension fund of \$1,421,342 compared to \$1,391,240 for the prior year. This is a \$30,044 increase over last year, or a 2.16% increase.

The actuary recommended a minimum contribution to the police pension fund of \$1,511,171 this year versus \$1,349,242 the prior year. This is a \$161,855 or 12% increase over the prior year.

The actuarially determined contribution recommendations reflect the assets and liabilities from a snapshot in time. The current pandemic has created volatility in the pension funds portfolios. While markets have recovered since earlier declines, some investment vehicles haven't fared as well.

Staff gives consideration to several factors when recommending a tax levy, including: property tax rates to businesses and citizens, adequate funding of operation, increasing funding ratios to the pension funds to increase their stability and save long-term and the statutory requirements with which the City must comply. Council and staff have expressed a desire to level out annual increases in the future to avoid sharp spikes in levies to property tax payers. Increasing the funding ratio and making recommended contributions is key to avoiding spikes and a negative spiral. The recommended tax levy funds the pensions at the actuarially recommended contribution level.

The State of Illinois passed a law consolidating all of the local fire and police pension funds into two respective funds for the purpose of increasing investment returns and lowering administrative expenses. The fire pensions have been consolidated into one fund with separate accounts for all the cities while the police is still in progress. The more assets we have in the pension funds, the lower our mandatory contributions to the statewide consolidated fund in the future. Future contributions will change depending on the actuarial assumptions the statewide consolidated funds will choose to use. As of now, the consolidated fire pension fund has settled on an assumed rate of return of 7.125%, though the police have not established the actuarial assumptions they will use.

For the Tax Levy Estimate in November, staff proposed a tax levy amount of \$5,412,155, an increase of \$205,746 or 3.95%. Because the overall EAV is expected to increase 2.83% the proposed property taxes will increase tax bills by 1% on a property assessed the same as the year prior. This would be the 1st year in the last 5 years that the proposed tax rate increased.

File Attachments

[2021 Tax Levy Final.pdf \(196 KB\)](#)

[2021 Tax Levy Distribution Pie Chart.pdf \(401 KB\)](#)

[2021 Tax Levy Ordinance.pdf \(81 KB\)](#)

8. Business Items

Subject :	B. Bid for Electrical Work at Central Park
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Staff recommends awarding the bid for Electrical Work at Central Park in the amount of \$204,845 to CEC of the Sauk Valley

Public Content

Hibbard Builders, acting as the City's construction manager for improvements at Central Park, sought bids for the required electrical work at Central Park. This includes new 200amp 3 phase service to the concession/restroom building, plus wiring of the building including lights, switches, etc., new park lighting fixtures and new wiring to those fixtures, power for the splash pad as well as power to the gazebo and to a future park sign. 2 proposals were received, one from CEC of the Sauk Valley (Complete Electric) and Engel Electric. CEC's proposal was substantially cheaper. Staff and the Construction Manager recommend approval of the CEC proposal so that the contractor can order the light fixtures for spring delivery.

File Attachments

[Complete Electric Proposal - 11-30.pdf \(33 KB\)](#)

[Engel Electric Proposal.pdf \(197 KB\)](#)

[Electrical Summary - Hibbard.pdf \(678 KB\)](#)

8. Business Items

Subject :	C. Ordinance No. 2021-12-34 Amending Chapter 42, Article IV, of the Sterling City Code, By Addition of a New Section 42-88 Entitled Recreational Fires
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Staff Recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2021-12-34 Amending Chapter 42, Article IV, of the Sterling City Code, By Addition of a New Section 42-88 Entitled Recreational Fires.

Public Content

Although recreational fires are not permitted under the current code, citizens have been allowed to have such fires as long as they are monitored, utilize dry firewood, are in an enclosed vessel, fire pit or fireplace, and have a spark screen. This ordinance will clarify the inconsistencies between the current City code and what has been allowed to take place.

Citizens will be allowed to have recreational fires between the hours of 7:00 am and 11:00 pm as long as the following regulations are followed;

- Only dry sticks, limbs and logs may be used.
- Weather permitting (there will be no burning when winds are in excess of 10 mph or during periods of drought)
- Fires must be in a vessel or fire pit intended for recreational fires, and they must have a spark screen.
- The following items are not permitted as a source of fuel; Garbage, trash, lumber, tires and landscape waste.
- Recreational fires must be extinguished upon the direction of Police or Fire Personnel.
- Recreational fires must be attended by a responsible adult.

File Attachments

[Ord No 2021-12-34 Recreational Fires.pdf \(117 KB\)](#)

8. Business Items

Subject :	D. Ordinance 2021-12-35 Redefining the Boundaries of the City Wards
Meeting :	Dec 20, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Approval of Ordinance 2021-12-35 Redefining the Boundaries of the City Wards

Public Content

The results of the decennial census revealed a disparity in population among the wards. The 4th ward was the largest ward with a population just under 4,200 while Ward 3 was smallest with under 3,400 residents. Wards 1 and 2 were nearly 3,600 and 3,500 respectively. The biggest reason for the disparity in Ward 4 was caused by the annexations of the Douglas Park and Steelton areas since ward boundaries were last adjusted. To ensure fair representation, a portion of the ward boundary between Wards 3 and 4 will shift west to better balance the wards. The boundary north of 14th Street, which currently runs north along Ave F, will shift west to Ave H. All other boundaries remain the same. Shifting this border aligns the new ward boundaries along existing the existing 11th and 18th precinct boundaries. The current boundary splits Precinct 11 nearly in half. In the attached png file, the old boundary is in gray with dark red X's and the new proposed boundary is indicated with a dotted line.

File Attachments

[Ord No 2021-12-35 Redefining Boundaries of City Wards.docx.pdf \(22 KB\)](#)
[ward 3-4 boundary north.png \(349 KB\)](#)
[Sterling Ward Map 12-10-21.pdf \(448 KB\)](#)