

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025. Roll call. Present: Alderperson Retha Elston, Joe Strabala-Bright, Aida Baker, Josh Johnson, Allen Przysucha, and Jim Wise. Absent: None.

City Attorney Tim Zollinger, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Fire Chief David Northcutt, Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, 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

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

Chief Chavira introduced and formally recognized Sergeant Ryan Potthoff as the new Deputy Chief of Support Services. He stated that Potthoff has an outstanding record of service, leadership, integrity, and vision, all qualities the City needs to continue building a stronger, safer, and more connected community. Potthoff brings twelve years of law enforcement experience, having served in a variety of roles including patrol, investigations, and patrol sergeant. Deputy Chief Potthoff was pinned with his badge by his father, retired Chief Ron Potthoff.

Chief Chavira also introduced Alex Kraus as the new Patrol Sergeant. He noted that Kraus has six years of dedicated service and leadership. Kraus consistently goes above and beyond, demonstrating excellence in the field, professionalism, and a deep respect for the responsibilities that come with wearing the badge. Sergeant Kraus was pinned with his badge by his wife, Ashley.

Alderperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to **Award the Bid to Helm of Freeport for the Reconstruction of Light Street in the Amount of \$408,141.00**; Seconded by Alderperson Johnson. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Przysucha made a motion to **Award the Bid to O'Brien Civil Works of Mt. Morris for the East 7th Street Reconstruction Project in the Amount of \$201,790.60**; Seconded by Alderperson Elston. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderson Elston made a motion to approve **Pay Request Number 2 to Martin and Company in the Amount of \$237,647.03**; Seconded by Alderson Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None

Alderson Strabala-Bright made a motion to approve **Pay Request Number 2 to Martin and Company in the Amount of \$53,377.84**; Seconded by Alderson Baker. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None

Alderson Elston made a motion to **Approve Resolution No. 2025-07-21 Transferring Jurisdiction and Control of Real Property to the Industrial Development Commission (406 Broadway)**; Seconded by Alderson Przysucha. Alderson Elston thanked everyone involved in this. This has been an issue for the last ten years. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderson Baker made a motion to **Approve Resolution No. 2025-07-22 Transferring Jurisdiction and Control of Real Property to the Industrial Development Commission (411 8th Avenue)**; Seconded by Alderson Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderson Strabala-Bright made a motion to **Approve Ordinance 2025-07-26 Accepting an Easement for a Multi-use Recreational Trail**; Seconded by Alderson Baker. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderson Przysucha made a motion to **Approve Pay Request #6 to Hoerr Construction for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation & Improvements in the amount of \$167,177.45**; Seconded by Alderson Elston. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderson Wise made a motion to **Approve Resolution 2025-07-23 Approval of Temporary Construction Easement to the Illinois Department of Transportation for IL 2 from 19th Avenue to IL Rt 40**; Seconded by Alderson Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Alderson Elston, Strabala-Bright, Johnson, Baker, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported that crews are working on the curb and gutter on West 5th Street. The playground and splashpad equipment have been delivered to the

riverfront park from the storage facility. The planters in the downtown area have been cleaned, the cleaning of basins continues, as well as sweeping, mowing, and spraying weeds.

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

Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt reported she will be sending in two preapprovals for the Stronger Communities grant, one property will be a demo, and the other will be a rehab. The final payout for the CDAP grant has just been approved. This grant is approximately forty years old and was very specific about the recipients. Matt Reglin has moved into the rental inspection program, Margie Guernsey has moved to code enforcement, and Rhayne Erickson has moved to the administrative assistant position. The rental inspection paperwork and administrative work has been started by Reglin.

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. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5th, from 5:00 to 7:00 at Grandon. Community Service Officer Toth has done an outstanding job organizing this event. Chavira asked citizens if they have concerns with solicitors to please call the nonemergency police number and report it as soon as possible. There are no solicitor stickers available at the police department for citizens to post on their doors.

Whiteside County Dispatch left the building today. This project has been several years in the making. Dispatch is now located in Morrison at the Sheriff's Office. The nonemergency number will continue to be answered by dispatch. The doors will be locked after office hours. There is a camera and intercom system at the northside elevator entrance. If a citizen needs an officer after hours, they will be let into that entrance by dispatch, and they will take the elevator to the police lobby and meet the officer there. Meetings that are held after hours in the coliseum have been taken into consideration, and people will be able to attend as usual.

Aldersperson Elston asked about the noise ordinance. She has had several complaints about fireworks late into the night. Chavira advised her that there is no time associated with the noise ordinance; if there is a complaint, they should contact the nonemergency number at the time of the issue.

Aldersperson Wise said that there was a great deal of misinformation on social media surrounding the enforcement of noise complaints. Wise suggested issuing educational information to prevent the misinformation.

Chief Northcutt reported that the month of June was a very busy month, including structure fires and river rescues. The two recruits are currently on shift and will be released to full duty in approximately one week. The hiring list has been exhausted; there are two openings. The assessment center for the hiring of the Deputy Chief has been selected, and the process will begin on July 22nd. Northcutt thanked Public Works for the concrete work at Station 2. There is no update on Engine 2. Annual physicals will begin for all firefighters. They have written a grant for a fire extinguisher trainer; there has not been any word on the other grants.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff advised that Chalk the Walk will be on Saturday. She thanked the employees for volunteering, Public Works, and the Fire Department for the preparation assistance.

City Attorney Zollinger advised that the final version of the memorandum of understanding with the County pertaining to the dispatch center will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Aldersperson Baker said the Sterling Municipal Band had an amazing 4th of July performance. She encouraged everyone to attend the band concerts.

Aldersperson Johnson asked Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader about the status of the riverfront timeline. Schrader advised that crews are approximately three to four weeks behind schedule, but more would be known at the riverfront meeting on Tuesday, July 8th.

Aldersperson Elston reminded everyone about the Municipal Band on Wednesdays, the Pop Up Market on Thursday, Chalk the Walk, and the Farmers Market on Saturday.

Aldersperson Przysucha said the Municipal Band was a great experience, and he encouraged everyone to attend the performances. He thanked Schrader and the Public Works crews for a swift response to a tree that was down, blocking the roadway.

Aldersperson Wise commented on the CDAP grant, saying he works with a family member of a recipient of the grant. He thanked everyone involved in making that happen.

Mayor Merdian reminded everyone about the riverfront meeting on Tuesday, July 8th, at 1:00 p.m. The Riverchase boat races will be held on Saturday. There is something for everyone to do this weekend. Mayor Merdian commented on the progress on 2nd Street, saying it is moving along. There will be a meeting for the Safe Streets for all grant on July 12th. Ron Clewer, Terry McGuire, Mark Geil, City Manager Shumard, and she did voiceovers for the buildings on the riverfront. The map for the rivers edge zone was received today, and the PINs will be gathered for the application. Once the application has been completed, a public hearing will be held.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk