

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2025. Roll call. Present: Alderperson Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Joe Strabala-Bright, and Jim Wise. Absent: Josh Johnson.

City Manager Scott Shumard, City Attorney Tim Zollinger, Police Chief E. Pat Bartel, Fire Chief David Northcutt, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Mary Carlson, 2004 15th Avenue - Carlson addressed the Council about the lack of public transportation. There are no options for public transport for people who work second or third shifts. Transportation is an important part of making the community livable.

Tom Brackemeyer, 1512 5th Avenue – Brackemeyer stated he would like to commend the attendees of the most recent protest. Participants on both sides were respectful, and the food drive was successful. Brackemeyer stated he agrees with Carlson on the issue of public transportation.

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 No. R2025-11-29 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017.
- D. Resolution No. R2025-11-30 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation Refunding (ARS) Bonds, Series 2020A.
- E. Resolution No. R2025-11-31 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation (ARS) Bonds, Series 2020B.
- F. Resolution No. R2025-11-32 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation Refunding (ARS) Bonds, Series 2020C.
- G. Resolution No. R2025-11-33 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A.
- H. Resolution No. R2025-11-34 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021B.
- I. Resolution No. R2025-11-35 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022A.
- J. Resolution No. R2025-11-36 providing for the abatement of general real property taxes for General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022B.

- K. Resolution 2025-11-37 To Close Streets for Sights and Sounds Christmas Walk on Friday, December 5, 2025.

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

Chief Bartel introduced Officer Kyle Wyckstandt. On October 15, 2025, the Police Fire Commission selected Wyckstandt for promotion to the rank of sergeant. Wyckstandt was hired in 2015. He has been a patrolman, range officer, Field Training Officer, and is a member of the ILEAS Force Field team. From 2019 through 2021 Wyckstandt was in the detective division. In 2021, he became a valued member of the Blackhawk Area Task Force.

Alderperson Wise made a motion to **Approve CGH Bond Ordinance No 2025-11-38 Authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the City of Sterling, Whiteside County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$41,950,000 for the purpose of financing the costs of various capital improvement projects in the City for CGH Medical Center and paying for costs related;** Seconded by Alderperson Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Baker made a motion to **Award the Bid for 2025 Snow Removal to Burger Brothers of Rock Falls, Illinois In the Amount of \$4,060.00;** Seconded by Alderperson Elston. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to **authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with IDOT for Storm Water Pumping Station Maintenance;** Seconded by Alderperson Baker. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Alderperson Elston made a motion to **approve Ordinance 2025-11-36 Amending Chapter 42, Article I by the Addition of a New Section 42-3 Enacting and Implementing a Fire Department Lift Assist Fee;** Seconded by Alderperson Strabala-Bright. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, and Przysucha. Nays – Alderperson Wise.

Alderperson Strabala-Bright made a motion to **approve Ordinance 2025-11-37 Amending Chapter 34, Article II, Section 34-35 Authorizing the Fire Department to Issue False Alarm Citations Previously Issued by Code Enforcement;** Seconded by Alderperson Baker. Voting: Ayes – Alderperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Aldersperson Przysucha made a motion to **approve Pay Request #7 to Sjoström & Sons in the Amount of \$961,862.99 for the Riverfront Park Improvements - Phase I**; Seconded by Aldersperson Strabala Bright. Voting: Ayes – Aldersperson Elston, Baker, Strabala-Bright, Przysucha, and Wise. Nays – None.

Study Session

City Council salaries. The last time Council salaries were adjusted was in 1998. IML recently conducted a comprehensive salary survey, and it was distributed to the Council. After a discussion, the Mayor will come up with comparisons from Princeton, Rock Falls, and Dixon. The pay increases will not be in effect until after the next election.

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Public Works, Brad Schrader, reported that in-ground trash cans have been installed at the riverfront park, holes have been dug for the lighting at the ice-skating ribbon, they assisted the Township with painting center lines, 23 manholes have been adjusted, cold patching and street sweeping continues.

Superintendent of Wastewater, Cory Bradshaw, reported they have cleaned up a dilapidated building on the new treatment plant site. The Sewer truck has been out jetting lines that they have had issues with.

Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt reported that last week, the Police Department and Public Works department assisted with the clean-up of a property on Maple Lane. This property had a court order for the cleanup. Several vehicles and dump trucks full of debris were removed. An informational open house has been scheduled for December 3rd for the rental inspection program. Property owners who register their property at the open house will have their fees waived.

Chief David Northcutt reported that the hiring list has been exhausted, and the Commission will start the testing process again. They would like to hire additional paid-on-call firefighters. The garage door replacement has started, and it should be completed this week. The firefighters will be participating in No-Shave November.

Chief Pat Bartel thanked everyone who participated in Stock the Squad and trunk or treat. Both of the events were a success. There will be a new Police Department web page; it will focus on recruitment. It will showcase the officers and the community. This will be paid for with the

recruitment and retention grant. The department has received two grants this week. One is from the Illinois Attorney General's Office for retail theft, and the other grant is from ILEAS for \$21,600 for six new tasers.

City Clerk Sathoff announced the Sleigh What?! Holiday Showdown. This is a Christmas decorating competition for businesses and residences in the City limits of Sterling. The City Hall is a drop-off spot for Toys for Tots.

Attorney Zollinger advised that the row houses on Avenue D have been in litigation for a while. The owner recently passed away, and his son has requested some additional time to become familiar with the case. There was a \$2,000 judgment against another non-compliant property owner. After the judgement, the owner became compliant.

City Manager Shumard reported there was a meeting on the West LeFevre, and another one will be held on November 10th. The environmental work at National has started. The housing study will be on the next agenda.

Council Reports

Aldersperson Baker thanked all of the City departments for the work that has been done in the City.

Aldersperson Elston stated it was nice to see the staff at the employee recognition dinner. She thanked everyone for always answering her questions. Elston thanked the Police Department for both trunk or treat and Stock the Squad. Elston thanked the Fire Department for the tour she attended with her granddaughter.

Aldersperson Przysucha stated the employee appreciation dinner was a nice time. He thanked Brad Schrader and Amanda Schmidt for the quick responses he received. He commended everyone for the trunk or treat and Stock the Squad.

Aldersperson Wise thanked Amanda Schmidt and the staff for the cleanup of the property on Maple Lane.

Mayor Merdian reported that 2,400 pounds of food items were donated to the foodbank from the participants of the protest. She encouraged people to reach out for assistance. We are fortunate to have resources in the area.

Janna from the Sterling Main Street was awarded the Attorney General's award from the Illinois Main Street for the under-40 group.

Mayor Merdian has been contacted about the old Latin American Club on Wallace Street. There is a group that is interested in revitalizing it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.
Teri Sathoff

City Clerk