

Meeting Opening

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 PM on Monday, June 1, 2026.

Present: Alderman Retha Elston, Alderman Aida Baker, Alderman Allen Przysucha, Alderman Jim Wise.

Absent: Alderman Joe Strabala-Bright, Alderman 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 (Zoom), Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw (Zoom), and City Clerk Teri Sathoff were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Communication from Visitors

Daryl Dieterlie, Freeport Road, addressed the Council regarding speed limit signs and curb cuts on Freeport Road. Mr. Dieterlie expressed concerns about not being permitted to install the size of flared apron he would prefer on his property. He also stated that he has not paid an electric bill in two years.

Bill Rodriguez, a resident of Avenue F and West 10th Street, requested information regarding the traffic study. City Manager Scott Shumard advised that a meeting is scheduled for June 9 to discuss the matter. Mr. Rodriguez asked for a projected timeline for the project and was informed that additional information would be available following the meeting. Mr. Rodriguez also inquired whether temporary speed bumps could be installed in the area in the interim.

Consent Agenda

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda;

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C. Mayor for the Day Proclamation Nathan Sharp
- D. Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Civilian Personnel Appreciation Week
- E. Sterling Noon Rotary to host a BBQ Fundraiser on July 20, 2026, at Sterling Marketplace with a request to waive associated fees.
- F. City of God to hold a Bucket Brigade on June 6, 2026
- G. Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery to hold a Bucket Brigade on June 20, 2026

Seconded by Alderman Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Mayor for the Day, Nathan Sharp, was presented with the proclamation declaring him Mayor for the day. He thanked the Mayor and the Council for the experience. Nathan stated he was excited to learn about the new fire training facility.

Recommended Personnel Action

Chief Northcutt introduced Deputy Chief Brandon Monical. Chief Northcutt stated that Monical not only has the qualifications for the position, he also has a passion for training and mentoring. Deputy Chief Monical was sworn in by City Clerk Teri Sathoff and pinned by his wife, Haley, and his sons, Colin and Liam.

Alderman Elston made a motion to **approve the appointments and reappointments to the boards and commissions**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Presentations and Awards

Firefighter Vincent Morris and Brittney Ramos presented the Garrett Ramos Scholarship to Macey Lofgren and Olivia Moreno. Each student received a \$2,000 scholarship that is funded by the Firefighters Union and the Ramos family.

Alderman Przysucha made a motion to **approve the Sterling Rock Falls Jaycees' Independence Day Celebration donation request for \$5,000**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Business Items

Alderman Baker made a motion to approve **Resolution 2026-06-22 Sterling Street Fest Road Closure of 4th Street**; Seconded by Alderman Przysucha. City Clerk Sathoff advised that the Council had previously approved the road closure request for 3rd Street. She explained that the committee had discussed the potential need to close 4th Street as well to enhance pedestrian safety during the event. At this time, the committee has not determined whether the additional closure will be necessary. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **pay request number 2 (final) to O'Brien Civil Works in the amount of \$41,821.79 for East 7th Street construction**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to approve **pay request #14 to Gorman and Company in the amount of \$38,592.00**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **waiving the bid process for the purchase of a building generator for City Hall**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise, and Mayor Merdian. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to **accept the quote from the Electric Doctor for a 150 kW building generator in the amount of \$64,769.00 for City Hall**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Przysucha made a motion to approve **waiving the bid process for the purchase of a bucket truck for Public Works**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise, and Mayor Merdian. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to **accept the quote from Runnion Equipment for a 2027 bucket truck in the amount of \$174,440.00 for the Public Works Department**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Baker made a motion to approve **waiving the bid process for the purchase of two 2026 Chevy Tahoe Police Packages for the Police Department**; Seconded by Alderman Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise, and Mayor Merdian. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to **accept the quote from Karl Chevrolet for two 2026 Chevy Tahoes in the amount of \$107,480.40 for the Police Department**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Elston made a motion to **approve waiving the bid process for the "up-fitting" of the two 2026 Chevy Tahoes for the Police Department**; Seconded by Alderman Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise, and Mayor Merdian. Nays – None.

Alderman Przysucha made a motion to **accept the quote from Guardian Fleet for the "up-fitting" of the two 2026 Chevy Tahoes in the amount of \$17,667.12 for the Police Department**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Baker made a motion to approve **waiving the bid process for the purchase of a**

20206 Chevy Equinox for the Police Department Detective Section; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to **accept the quote from Sterling Chevrolet for a 2026 Chevy Equinox in the amount of \$33,887.63 for the Police Department Detective Section;** Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Alderman Przysucha made a motion to **approve Resolution 2026-06-21 Declaring Certain Police Department Vehicles as Surplus Property and Authorizing Their Trade In;** Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Retha Elston, Aida Baker, Allen Przysucha, Jim Wise. Nays – None.

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader reported crews have been working on the riverfront since the soft opening on Friday. Watering of trees continues, the ditches in front of Self Help were dredged, graffiti has been removed from the riverfront, and a new playground has been installed at Platt Park.

Chief Pat Bartel reported that the City was recognized by the Illinois Department of Defense for its support of members of the National Guard and Reserve forces. Officer Mutean was deployed to Alaska for a one-year assignment, and Deputy Chief Potthoff attended the recognition ceremony on behalf of the City. As a result of this recognition, the City has been recommended for additional recognition by the U.S. Department of Defense. The Sterling Police Department currently employs five military veterans, four of whom remain actively involved in military service.

Chief Bartel also reported that the speed trailer has been placed on 2nd Street to help deter speeding along the newly improved roadway. Traffic enforcement efforts will continue in the area.

The department will soon resume its testing process to meet staffing needs, as it is currently down one officer.

In response to community concerns regarding the Flock safety cameras located at Wallace Street and Avenue B, Chief Bartel provided photographs showing the cameras' fields of view. The images demonstrated that neither the splash pad nor the riverfront park was visible from either camera.

Chief Northcutt reported that Engine 2 is currently undergoing repairs. He also noted that the new Deputy Chief has been acclimating to the department. A child safety seat certification class will be held this week, resulting in eight firefighters being certified to properly install and

inspect child safety seats. Chief Northcutt also reminded the Council that the Legends of the Rock fishing tournament will take place on Saturday.

City Clerk Teri Sathoff reported that the Movies in the Park event will be held on Friday. She also noted that the City's new FOIA software is fully operational and functioning well. Clerk Sathoff welcomed the new Deputy Fire Chief to the City of Sterling.

City Attorney Zollinger reported that recently passed state legislation will affect the county tax sale process for properties with delinquent taxes. He noted that the changes may have a significant impact on Whiteside County and could result in more properties becoming abandoned, creating additional challenges for the City.

City Manager Scott Shumard reported that weekly construction meetings with NICOR and the project contractor will be held to coordinate and determine the construction schedule for the Griswold project.

Shumard also reported that the City was awarded a Safe Streets for All grant last week, and staff are currently working to develop the project scope of work.

A planning meeting with the Jaycees is scheduled for June 9. The organization has expressed interest in utilizing the City's new riverfront park for viewing the fireworks.

Shumard further reported that he recently spoke with a new manager from Surf Internet. During the conversation, he conveyed concerns regarding complaints that service has not yet been extended to all neighborhoods as previously anticipated. He also raised concerns about damage to sewer laterals and gas lines during construction activities and noted that repairs have been taking longer than expected.

Council Reports

Aldersperson Baker congratulated Nathan Sharp on being the Mayor for the Day. She asked about the street cut on the north-west corner of Avenue G and West 14th. Schrader advised that this is an Illinois American Water project; he will reach out to them for a timeline on it being repaired. Baker asked about the request for a streetlight from Judy Wheeler. Shumard advised that the light was extremely expensive and would require the lines to be underground due to the lack of easements. The less expensive alternative would be to put a light directly in her yard. Shumard will reach out to Wheeler. Baker stated the NWSW Park looks great.

Aldersperson Elston reported that the Memorial Day services were very nice. She thanked the fire department for putting flags on the cemetery plots. She thanked Public Works for the installation of the playground equipment at Platt Park. She reminded everyone about the Municipal Band Concert on Wednesday. Elston asked about the process for ticketing and mowing the grass at delinquent properties.

Aldersperson Przysucha reported that Platt Park looked great, and several kids were playing there. He welcomed Deputy Chief Monical.

Aldersperson Wise congratulated Nathan on being the Mayor for the Day. He welcomed Deputy Chief Monical.

Mayor Merdian welcomed Deputy Chief Monical. She thanked Public Works for the work on Platt Park, the Riverfront Park, and the coordination of the train.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk