

Meeting Opening

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 PM on Monday, January 5, 2026. Present: Alderman Aida Baker, Alderman Jim Wise, Alderman Allen Przysucha, Alderman Retha Elston.

Absent: Alderman Josh Johnson, Alderman Joe Strabala-Bright.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Communication from Visitors

There were no communications from visitors present.

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

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

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Recommended Personnel Action

Chief Bartel introduced the City's newest Police Officer, Korbin Geerts. Officer Geerts began his duties on December 24 and was sworn in prior to the Council meeting in order to begin his shift. The Council and staff extended a warm welcome to Officer Geerts.

Presentations and Awards

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Monique Castillo for her service as the coordinator of Whiteside County Toys for Tots; Seconded by Alderman Przysucha. Voting: Ayes – Aida Baker, Jim Wise, Allen Przysucha, Retha Elston. Nays – None.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Business Items

Alderman Elston made a motion to Approve **Pay Request Number 2 (Final) to Helm in the amount of \$260,993.35 for Light Street Construction**; Seconded by Alderman Baker. Voting: Ayes – Aida Baker, Jim Wise, Allen Przysucha, Retha Elston. Nays – None.

Alderman Wise made a motion to Approve **Ordinance 2026-01-01 Authorizing the Issuance of not to exceed \$41,950,000 General Obligation Bonds (alternate revenue source), Series 2026 of the City of Sterling, Whiteside County, Illinois, Providing the details of such bonds and for an alternate revenue source and the levy of direct annual taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds, and related matters**; Seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aida Baker, Jim Wise, Allen Przysucha, Retha Elston, and Mayor Merdian. Nays – None.

Staff Reports

Superintendent of Wastewater Cory Bradshaw reported crews have been working on replacing a seal at a lift station and jetting out lines.

Chief Pat Bartel reported that the three new hires started at the academy today. The north door is functional, and the building is now locked and secure after hours. Chief Bartel thanked his detective section; they had made arrests in a couple of large cases.

Chief Northcutt reported there were 358 inspections and 1832 calls for the year 2025. He advised that he would be providing a more detailed report to the Council. The 48-hour on and 96-hour off schedule started on January 1st.

City Manager Scott Shumard reported the quiet zone proposal is scheduled to be in this week. The River Edge application was submitted, and the State has requested additional information. That has been finalized and will be submitted.

Council Reports

Aldersperson Baker reported she is looking forward to a great year.

Aldersperson Przysucha reported that he received a complaint from a citizen regarding an incident on Oak Avenue, a squad car shone its lights into a residence. Chief Bartel stated that there have been a couple of incidents on East Avenue that may have been related.

Aldersperson Wise stated that 2025 was a great year and is looking forward to an even better 2026.

Mayor Merdian reported that there will be a Liquor Commission meeting on Tuesday afternoon. She and Attorney Zollinger will be meeting with Mr. Deterlie on Thursday. The work on East 2nd Street should continue this week.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk