

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:35 PM on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilmen Ken Martin, John Baty, G.E. Luse, Don Havard, and Shawn Richardson. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Sheila Kirby, Sam Kirby, Ann Repp, Diana Hughell, Jackie White, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, Kyle Ocker, and Keith Sherman were also present. Ruth Sheldon arrived at approximately 8:10 PM. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Luse to approve the agenda. All Ayes - Motion carried.

Diana Hughell from Pathfinders RC&D addressed the council about a Community Catalyst grant for up to \$100,000 and the DNR Derelict Building Program. The building that collapsed in Moravia does qualify for the Community Catalyst grant, which would be to either deconstruct or reconstruct the building, depending on a report received from a structural engineer. Marcia Benjamin has offered to assist with the grant writing, along with the Pathfinders office. The city would not have to pay any matching funds for either grant, but would need to provide in-kind services. Individuals do not qualify for the grant; cities are eligible. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to accept the challenge to apply for the grant and move forward on the project. In further discussion, Councilman Luse stated there was no place on the agenda that states we are going to vote on the matter. Mayor Books asked Jackie White if she would work with and collaborate with the city and Jackie stated she would. Diana Hughell said she would facilitate. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Luse-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

Keith Sherman from Alliant Energy reviewed franchise fees with the City Council. Currently, electric and gas customers in Moravia pay a 1% Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) on their bills which amounts to approximately \$8,000 per year. Of that amount, the City of Moravia only receives approximately \$350, per State formula. If the council chooses to replace the 1% LOST with a 1% franchise fee, the City would retain 100%, approximately \$8,000. Iowa law stipulates how the money can be spent. Alliant Energy does not advocate or oppose franchise fees. Council agreed by consensus to put the Revenue Purpose Statement on the January meeting agenda.

Motion by Luse and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 regular meeting, with a correction on the section about lawn mower bids to state "stipulation to pay for half now and half at delivery if Long's will approve." Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Luse-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

Bills to be approved were presented and discussed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the bills including the additions. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Luse-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public: Marcia Benjamin submitted the final report to the Appanoose County Community Fund for a \$10,000 grant to the Betterment Committee to purchase tools and a trailer.

Department reports were given:

Fire – There were seven calls last month (6 ambulance calls and 1 fire).

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp discussed the Friends of the Library group that is being formed. The next meeting is January 15 at 3:30 PM. The library had 12 interlibrary loans last month.

Cemetery – Hillcrest Cemetery looks the best it has looked in years. Carol Cloyed also complimented how nice it looks.

Parks – Gazebo has been repaired.

Streets – Council agreed to fill in the holes at the edge of the blacktop at end of street by CD's.

Water –Delinquent accounts were reviewed.

Sewer – Blower is still at 3E in Des Moines.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. ICAP safety grant needs to be turned in before December 31. Council authorized Jason to order barricades for the grant. A letter of complaint was reviewed regarding charging for installing water and sewer services after the work was done rather than waiting to charge when the owner hooked up to the services in

the spring. Council agreed by consensus that we charge when the work is done. The city received an email from the DNR that we have met all requirements for the flood plain and we remain in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program. MESI sold to Keystone Lab out of Newton. There is a sewer smell in city hall that needs looked into. An electronic lock and larger writing surface needs to be added to the clerk's office door. Councilman Baty will complete. Budget preparation has begun. Water project expenses this month was \$1,292.52. Council agreed by consensus not to borrow money for this, but to pay out of funds we have. Water at 310 West North Street was on and had used 1200 gallons. The city had shut it off several months ago due to a leak. Council agreed by consensus to purchase locks and for Jason to lock and seal and remove meters for places that are shut off. A new clerk's report was given to the council that is now generated from ClerkBooks and will replace the manual report. This report is required by auditors.

Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow reviewed progress made in the shop with tearing down storage rooms. All vehicles are serviced and snow plows/sanders are ready. The lift station has been cleaned and serviced. Muskrats are back in the lagoon and need to be trapped as they are doing a lot of damage. Black dirt from the water pits is being stockpiled.

The water meter project was discussed. Approximately half of Westview is completed.

Nuisance properties were reviewed. Final day to comply is approaching for property on North John Street. Lawyer will be notified and fines will begin. The owner of derelict building on South William Street wants to deed it over to the city. Taxes and judgments would need to be paid. Council agreed by consensus to proceed in getting the property in the city's name. Three letters were mailed regarding the ordinance requiring residents to collect solid waste weekly by a private contractor.

An Oath of Office ceremony was held for newly elected and re-elected officials and the City Clerk. Those sworn in were Irene Brooks for Mayor, Sharla Stogdill for City Clerk, and John Baty, Ken Martin, and Ruth Sheldon for City Council.

Council Discussion Items – The top rung on a chain link fence located near West North and North John Streets sticks out on sidewalk. Councilman Baty will contact owner and cut it. There is a black dog in town running loose with no collar. Councilman Luse made a motion to pay an extra \$5,000 on pickup loan to save interest, taking funds from 50% Roads, 25% Water, and 25% Sewer. Motion died without a second. Council agreed by consensus this needs to be put on the January agenda to review. This was Councilman Luse's last meeting and he stated he has enjoyed his time on the City Council and has always had the best interest of the town at heart. He stated Ruth Sheldon will do a good job taking his place. He thanked Sharla Stogdill and Jason Snow for their work for the city and that he has enjoyed working with them. The council thanked G.E. for his contributions to the city.

Mayor Discussion items – George Bob Robinson has resigned and his last day is December 13, 2017. We need contractor bid and proof of insurance on file. A dog owned by Carolyn Clark bit a citizen. Carolyn has been talked to about it. A letter needs to be written to make it official record. In the future, any citizen that gets bit by a dog needs to contact the sheriff. The Conservation Board will pick up Christmas trees on January 1 if we will provide an area for the trees to be stored. An area will be set up with snow fence at Hillcrest Cemetery near the dumpsite. Citizens are asked to put the trees there before January 1.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Don to adjourn at 8:34 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer