

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Gary Ehrle, Don Havard, and Shawn Richardson. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Sheila Kirby, Sam Kirby, Marcia Benjamin, and Pastor Christy Ehrle were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2019, special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Richardson to borrow \$17,430 from our line of credit at Iowa Trust Bank for the Municipal Supply and RRWA bills for the water/sewer project. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – None

Council committees were discussed. Council agreed by consensus for Gary Ehrle to be on the Parks Committee and for Don Havard to be on the Cemetery Committee as well as remain on the Street Committee.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Jason Snow reported there will be a delay in getting the new truck for the fire department due to tariffs on fuel tanks. The earliest we will get the truck is November. Since the FY 2018/19 budget was amended to purchase the truck, pre-paying was discussed. Council will wait to see the contract before making a decision.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve the resignation of Bill Jones from the Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to appoint Chris McDanel to the Library Board to replace Bill Jones. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin reported the following: The cost to purchase the old sawmill is \$20,000. Council agreed by consensus not to purchase at that price. Rich Wilson was told he could have the hay off the lot next to Hillcrest Cemetery. Ken will have more information at the next meeting about bids for opening the new section at Hillcrest. City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported two requests for burials at the Moravia Cemetery and the hours spent on it due to lack of a map and records. Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow reported the difficulties they are having mowing and trimming due to all of the shepherd hooks, bricks, flowers, solar lights, flag pole, and other objects on the ground. Council authorized Jason to remove the flag pole that someone has erected by a grave since we do not know a family member to contact about it. Councilmen Havard and Martin will walk the cemetery and give Jason a recommendation on what to remove from graves after June 15. We want to respect and honor the people buried at the cemetery, but we have to follow the rules as well, which is that all decorations must be attached to headstones. A newspaper ad will be ran to notify people of the June 15 deadline to remove flowers and items not attached to headstones.

Parks – Councilman Martin reported the garbage cans at the park on the square are full and need emptied.

Streets – North East Street was discussed.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. The charge for replacing a frozen meter was discussed. The rate of \$150 was established in 2016 and Council agrees that rate still stands and should be charged to the homeowner. Consumer confidence report is three pages long but only one page was published in error on May 8. Full three-page report will be published May 15. The town's water usage is down considerably since finding major leaks.

Sewer – Fifty grass carps have been put in the lagoon. The cost to uncap a sewer was discussed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard the estimated cost to uncap a sewer for the first hour is \$165, of which \$85 is labor and \$80 is material. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Havard-Aye. Motion carried. Homeowner can choose to have a plumber uncap the sewer or do it themselves, but it must be inspected by the City before it is covered back up. Mayor Brooks inquired about the status of the sewer line in alley behind Spencer's. Councilman Baty said he was having trouble getting someone here to replace the line but will continue to try.

Nuisance Properties – Pickups with trash in them have been removed by two residents after letters were sent. Craver & Grothe requested pictures of property at 305 Milwaukee. Councilman Baty will email the pictures. Baty will also provide a list of junk vehicles that need to be removed. Baty has contacted Craver & Grothe about the building on the square that is falling in.

City Staff – Jason Snow inquired what to do about water stops underneath the concrete, asphalt, at the edge of a rock driveway, and in the middle of a property. Homeowners will be talked to. The jetter is being repaired again. Jason inquired who was responsible for the trash at Trussell Park during ball season. Council wants the M Club notified they need to pick up trash and put it in the city dumpster. Jason inquired if the city could borrow Baty Electric's bucket truck to take down an ash tree in the park on square. Councilman Baty agreed. Baggers for lawn mowers were discussed. Jason is to check the cost. Jason requested they work four 10-hour shifts during the summer. Council agreed for them to try it and see how it works but there will have to be someone on call for the days they are off just like on the weekends. Sharla Stogdill thanked the Council for the Open House and recognition for City Clerk Week. The Iowa League of Cities announced the Grant Finder program, a database of private, state and federal grants that are available to municipalities for \$50 for the first 100 that request it. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to purchase the Grant Finder database for \$50. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried. Financial reports were reviewed, including fund balances, profit and loss statement, budget, and the improved financial status of the city compared to four years ago. In order to be in compliance with our resolution on bank balances and to meet the guidelines of FDIC on the amount of money that can be insured in checking and in savings, Sharla recommended transferring \$60,000 from the Road Use fund checking account to the Road Use fund savings account. Funds can be transferred back to checking as needed for expenses. Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to transfer \$60,000 from Road Use checking to Road Use savings. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

Resident complaints – A complaint was received from a resident about a pit bull running loose at West View. Council will investigate who the owner of the pit bull is. A complaint about trash and tires behind a resident's house was received. Council will review. A complaint about objects in the back yard of a house clear up next to the alley was received. Homeowner will be contacted. A complaint about a red boxer running loose was reported and the sheriff was called. The owner was told by law enforcement to tie the dog up, license the dog, and feed it and they will be following up to see if they do.

Seasonal Help – Allen Parlier started work May 14. There are two potential candidates to fill the second position that need to complete a job application.

Water/Sewer Project Update - Twenty more water pits have been installed. Several inquiries at city hall have been made about when the dirt will be filled in around pits that were installed last year. This will be done as soon as it dries up so no ruts will be made in yards.

The USDA grant for the mini excavator was discussed. Jason has requested bids from three places but we have not received yet.

Insurance at Trussell Park was discussed. Councilman Ehrle will review structures and items that we are considering insuring and the price to replace them. After he compiles the list, we will get a quote on the insurance cost.

The ICAP audit results were reviewed. Bench grinder needs to be removed since it is not used. Councilman Baty will get estimates for sidewalk replacement at City Hall. Several items at both playgrounds were discussed.

Dollar General Update – Nothing to report.

Resolution No. 8-2019 – Wage Increase was introduced by Mayor Brooks. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution No. 8-2019 – Wage Increase. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution No. 9-2019 – Wage Increases was introduced by Mayor Brooks. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9-2019 – Wage Increases. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Resolution adopted.

Council discussion items – Councilman Martin reported the construction of the cell tower is at a standstill until it dries up. Councilman Havard has heard the trailer at 302 South East Street is going to be moved. Owner needs contacted and advised of the ordinances in place for moving a trailer.

Mayor Info and Discussion Items – A discussion needs to take place about the water/sewer license/affidavit operator and staff meetings. Ordinance workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 4:30 PM.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 7:54 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer