

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilpersons John Baty, Gary Ehrle, Don Havard, and Shawn Richardson. Councilman Ken Martin was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Tim McDanel, Sheila Kirby, Megan Irving, Aubrey Irving, Linda Kehrberg, Kelly Howard, and Ann Repp were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Gary Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

Mayor Brooks added Marcia Benjamin to the agenda to speak about a project/grant. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the revised agenda. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. City Clerk Sharla Stogdill asked the Council what fund to charge the bill from Municipal Supply for the fire hydrant by the Nazarene Church. Council agreed by consensus to pay the bill from the water fund but that it is not on the City's line and to ask the Nazarene Church to reimburse the City for the cost of the hydrant and half of the labor costs. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – None.

Appanoose County Auditor Kelly Howard addressed the council regarding the upcoming election on November 5. This is the first year of the city/school combination election. Election hours will be from 7 AM to 8 PM. On the ballot will be the mayor position and three council openings. One of the council openings is to fill the vacancy left by Ruth Sheldon's resignation. Candidates need to identify on the paper they file whether or not they are running for the council vacancy which will be in office from November 28, 2019 until December 31, 2021. The filing period is August 26-September 19. The auditor has designated city clerks as filing officers for the city election. The clerks' responsibilities include handing out papers, collecting, reviewing, and accepting papers by Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 5 PM, as well as delivering the papers to the Auditor's office by noon on September 20. Since the city clerk does not do anything with the school board election papers, they can be picked up and filed at the school.

Megan Irving and Linda Kehrberg, representing the Fall Festival Committee, reviewed the festival schedule, insurance, food license, gambling license, portable toilets, recycling, and items to be completed by the city. Parking by the city shop was discussed and committee needs to make sure barricades are put up and no parking allowed in order for city employees to be able to get equipment in and out of the shop. The recycle trailer last year did not work well so they will be using recycling trash cans instead. Council stated that if the Festival Committee wants the park sprayed for bugs that it must be done by a licensed applicator. The Committee has a new sponsor donation program this year and activities that will be sponsored by donors. Motion by Baty and seconded by Richardson to allow the Fall Festival to use the streets and to share half of the cost of portable toilets. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Marcia Benjamin addressed the council about a TAP grant for the inter-urban railroad that has been approved by the State and has also received Federal approval. It would be a partnership with the Historical Society and the City. Many details are still unknown but the council agreed by consensus that it is worth pursuing and finding out more information.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Fire Chief Jason Snow reported seven medical calls (two with helicopters on scene), one structure fire, one car fire, and several issues with the last wind storm.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported Blank Part Zoo will be at the library on Wednesday, August 14. The library will be open during Fall Festival.

Cemetery – Three stones at Hillcrest Cemetery fell over during the last storm. Hillcrest Cemetery is not a perpetual care cemetery so the maintenance of the stones is the responsibility of the family. Family members will be contacted to have the stones put back in place. Councilman Havard stated he is not in favor of removing shepherd hooks and items not on stones. Since we have not received much rain, there has not been a lot of growth in weeds and grass so nothing has been removed yet.

Parks – Councilman Ehrle reported on the progress of work being done at the city park. Wood chips and railroad ties around playground equipment have been replaced with rubber pieces. Roger Boley received a donation from Sherwin Williams for 15 gallons of paint and also donated his time to paint the gazebos. The City Council expressed their appreciation of the donation and Roger's work. A dead tree on the north side of the park has been removed. No smoking signs have been installed. The broken cement on sidewalk in front of the library has been replaced. A child's swing seat still needs to be installed. Councilman Ehrle also reported on work that still needed to be done: Paint bike parking cage, replace and paint north building façade, repair west basement windows, landscaping on south side needs to slope away from building for water runoff purposes, install downspouts, replace and paint east basement door façade, and building tuck pointing.

Streets – Councilman Havard reported Norris Asphalt came to Moravia to look at roads before starting on repairs. The Blakesburg road has to be graded first before they will do any work on it. Councilman Baty reported Lathrop's will be here within two weeks to do the work on it. Monroe County needs to be contacted to divert traffic.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Motion by Baty & seconded by Richardson to write off and close Account 4178 in the amount of \$266.67 and to pursue collection of the account. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried. Council agreed by consensus to send letters giving 30 day notice of a tax lien to Accounts 380, 161, 4092, and 3030. Account 3988 remains unpaid and resident parked a junk vehicle on top of the water shut off. Council requested Mayor Brooks to contact the Appanoose County Sheriff to have the junk vehicle towed and to issue a citation.

Sewer – Dollar General wants to speak with someone about the sanitary sewer line. Jason Snow will call them.

Nuisance Properties – Property at 305 West Milwaukee now belongs to the city. Bids are needed to get the property cleaned up. The Neighbor Helping Neighbor program will also be assisting. The water and sewer need to be capped and cut. Alliant Energy needs notified to cap off the gas and cut electric line to it as house will be torn down or burnt.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported the State Outstanding Debt report is filed and the IMWCA audit report is complete and submitted. The fuel tax refund has been applied for in the amount of \$807.42. A conference call is set up for August 15 with ClerkBooks for assistance with the Street Finance Report. Council agreed by consensus to change the September meeting from the 10th to the 17th due to the clerk being on vacation the first week of September. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council. An amendment to the budget will need to be made so council was requested to notify the clerk of any changes they foresee in the upcoming year's budget. Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow inquired about the water and sewer to the log house on North Brandon. Councilman Baty stated McCann's will be back in town the end of the week and are to take care of it first. The City installs the water and does an inspection on the sewer. Mayor Brooks is to call the owner to let them know. Jason inquired about mowing help since one person has quit. Council agreed by consensus to run an ad to hire another person. Jason discussed the fire hydrant at the Nazarene Church. The water main was not installed correctly and was being held in place by dirt. It has lock rings on it now. When John Engle is here removing the limb and dead ash tree, Jason would like for him to do stump grinding. Council agreed by consensus. Council also requested Engle look at tree in cemetery that has roots exposed. Mayor Brooks had an inquiry if we can sell cemetery spaces where the tree came down. Council declined selling the spots. The brush pile was discussed and it will be closed when work begins this fall on the cemetery expansion. An optional site for brush pile is still in discussion.

Resident complaints – The complaint about gutters in streets in West View was reviewed again. Grass is being mowed by some residents into the gutters and cars park in the gutters which causes the problem. The City does not have the equipment to clean the gutters and if it was hand shoveled it would need to be done every time it rains. Residents need to stop parking in them and stop throwing grass toward the street when mowing. Tim McDanel inquired about the junk cars on the west side of the old highway north. Councilman Baty said it would have to be dealt with by our attorney.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to approve the cigarette/tobacco/nicotine/vapor permit application for Spencer's Grocery. Roll call vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

The estimate to repair the Moravia sign was reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve payment to Allen Sign Company for \$995 for Option 2 to include a backer panel reinforcement of the sign. Roll call vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Nay, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Security cameras for city hall and the shop was discussed and tabled for review at the next council meeting due to time constraints. Councilmen Richardson and Ehrle will bring pricing for equipment to September meeting.

Properties violating the mowing ordinance were reviewed and tabled until we can find more mowing help.

2019 legislative changes that affect the Moravia code of ordinances was tabled for review at the next council meeting due to time constraints.

The water and sewer license for Jason Snow was discussed. Jason said it costs \$480 for the sewer license classes held in Cedar Rapids on November 14, 15, 21, and 22, 2019. The test is for a sewer system that we do not have. Jason said he understood the concern about not having a license and an agreement he signed to get a license, but Moravia does not have an updated system and any violations also fall on the license holder. Councilman Baty will talk to Jason about his concerns. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard for Jason Snow to attend the wastewater treatment class in Cedar Rapids on November 14, 15, 21, and 22, 2019 and for the city to pay the expenses for the class. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Brooks conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 2019-03 – Water Service System Non-Refundable Hook-Up Fee. Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance No. 2019-03 – Water Service System Non-Refundable Hook-Up Fee due to no change in rates and only adding two new rules. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 2019-03 – Water Service System Non-Refundable Hook-Up Fee. Roll Call Vote: Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Councilman Baty reported the contractor is finishing a big job in Albia and will be back in Moravia to work at the end of the week.

USDA approved our revised minimum requirements for the grant for the mini excavator. The City has two bids and is waiting on the third bid. Council will need to review the bids and make their selection at the next council meeting.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 8:26 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer