

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Don Havard, and Shawn Richardson. Councilman Gary Ehrle was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Albertson, Paul Simpson, Chad Whitney, Terra Walker, Willie Lewis, Jon Mullins, Margaret Richardson, Terry Chapman, Sheila Kirby, and Ann Repp were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Correction to the amount owed to Vogel Traffic Services was noted. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Richardson to transfer \$33,000 from Fire Fund Savings to Fire Fund Checking to pay for Ford truck for Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent.

Comments from the public – Richard Albertson addressed the Council regarding the house south of him on South Henry Street that has been uninhabited for approximately twenty years and is falling in. There are rodents living in it and water may be standing in the basement. There is an offensive odor. Council agreed by consensus to contact our attorney and start the condemning process. Margaret Richardson discussed the water that floods in her yard and in her neighbor's garage. The standing water in her yard is causing a tree to pull up. The water is coming from a neighbor's basement that uses a sump pump. Council asked Jason Snow to look at it and see what can be done.

Jon Mullins addressed the council regarding the property at 307 West Milwaukee. Jon is interested in buying the property to build a house. He stated the property is a nuisance to the community and he would clean it up for us. He would make an agreement with the city with a deadline to have it cleaned up. He heard the school wants it for a bus barn but has concerns about the weight of the buses on that street. Councilman Baty said the buses would come to the property by the baseball field. Jon wants to cut down the trees on the property and council agreed by consensus for him to do that. Council told Jon there is a well on the property, and Jon stated he knew where the well was located. Jon would appreciate the opportunity to buy the property.

Chad Whitney, representing the Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene security team, wanted to change the days of target practice that the Council had originally approved. Sundays did not work out for the practice, so he wanted to change it to "occasional use" not before 8 AM. The law center would be notified before the practice as agreed upon earlier. Council agreed by consensus.

Pastor Terry Chapman from the Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene presented a check to the city for \$3,477 for repair to the fire hydrant on Myra Lane. He stated the hydrant was definitely theirs and not the city's. He gave the Council information to consider about receiving Myra Lane as part of the city's streets, instead of it belonging to the church. After Dollar General puts in their part of Church street, the Nazarene Church will complete the street and ask the city to receive it at that time also. There was discussion about more stop signs at West View and the need for east/west streets to stop.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Paul Simpson reported the big ladder truck may possibly be sold to a fire department in Arizona. If it is sold, they would like to purchase a tanker pumper with that money. A few members of the Moravia Fire Department will be attending fire training in Centerville on Saturday, September 21. There are two new members of the fire department. There were fourteen calls on the August incident log.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported 69 people visited the library on Saturday of the Fall Festival. The light in the library was fixed by John Baty. Ann requested permission from the Council to install a 24"x36" outdoor locked bulletin board by the library door. Friends of the Library would pay for it. Notices would be posted in the bulletin board instead of on their door. The library sold 63 alumni lists at Fall Festival and would use that money to purchase it. Council agreed by consensus.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin reported new foundations/stones being installed at Hillcrest Cemetery. Councilman Havard reported that Lathrop is able to pick up stones in cemeteries. County cemeteries have a grant that pays for most of it; need to find out if municipal cemeteries are eligible for the grant. There is only one stone left lying on the ground from the storm that needs to be picked up. Since we are not a perpetual care cemetery, this is the family's responsibility. Liability issues are also a concern of the Council.

Parks – Councilman Martin stated he was pleased with the cleanliness of the park after Fall Festival. There are a lot of cigarette butts around the gazebo and it is posted No Smoking there. Mayor Brooks would like to see more trash cans north of the square at next year's Fall Festival (Post Office area). Chad Whitney thanked the City from the Fall Festival Committee.

Streets – It is going to cost \$26,000 more than originally planned to repair North East Street. Iowa Trust Bank will be contacted about borrowing the additional amount. If we do not have Norris Asphalt repair North East Street this year, the cost of the other two projects (East Chariton and South Trussell) will increase \$2,150. Dirt has been hauled to Light of Life Church. A bid was received from Star Equipment for a broom for the skid loader. This will be put on the agenda in February and would need to be added to the budget.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to send a certified letter on September 26 to Account 3280 to give a 30 day notice a tax lien will be filed if account is not paid. A customer who currently has two separate accounts for their house and cattle had one water pit installed. All water for house and cattle will be billed to one account and no sewer usage over the minimum 4000 gallons will be charged.

Sewer – A sludge test with a boat needs to be done at the lagoon. A sink hole in the back yard of a house at West View was discussed. The resident's sewer line has collapsed. Mayor Brooks will show homeowner the ordinance stating it is their responsibility to repair and give the homeowner two weeks to fix it or the city will repair it and charge them.

Nuisance Properties – Motion by Baty and seconded by Richardson to begin process to condemn property at 409 South Henry Street. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill gave the Council an update for their ordinance books at home. Two candidates have filed for the Mayor position and three have filed for Council to date. Last day to file is Thursday, September 19 at 5:00 PM. Council agreed by consensus for the clerk to attend budget training in December in Johnston. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council, including updated end of year reports for June 30, 2019. When receiving assistance from ClerkBooks with the Street Financial Report, they looked at the end of year reports and changed it from accrual basis accounting through the year to cash basis accounting at the end of the year. This resulted in changes to water and sewer ending balances. Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow reported work done for Fall Festival, ditch project, issues with locates for water pits, and mowing updates. The well and bees on Moffatt property were reviewed. Jason asked if a possible lease option or lease to own for the land at the old saw mill is possible to put the burn pile. Councilman Martin will find out.

Results of the IMWCA site visit were reviewed. A bloodborne pathogens procedure and return to work policy for employees will be implemented, as well as the free online university IMWCA offers for training will be used.

City Clerk Stogdill reviewed the City Street Financial Report for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 with the Council. Expenses and revenues were discussed. Resolution #11-2019 – City Street Financial Report for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was introduced by Mayor Brooks. Motion by Richardson and seconded by Martin to approve and adopt Resolution #11-2019. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

The 2019 Legislative Summary from Simmering Cory & Iowa Codification was reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Richardson to make changes to our ordinances to reflect the legislative changes of SF283 and SF634. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

Prices for security cameras for city hall and shop area were reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to purchase security cameras from Southern Iowa Technology for a total of \$1,000 or less using funds from the ICAP safety grant. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

Mowing of properties was discussed. Landlords will be notified if the house is occupied by renters. Council authorized mowing the property at 503 South East Street again and also to mow 304 East Chariton. There is a list of other properties to be mowed.

Council reviewed the proposed background screening policy and consent form recommended by ICAP. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the background screening policy and consent form. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Work continues on the project.

Bids for the mini excavator being purchased in part with a grant from USDA were reviewed and discussed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to accept the bid for a new Yanmar VI050 Cab Unit from Vermeer in Pella, Iowa for \$58,400. The bid meets all minimum specifications, is at a median price point, and has the longest warranty. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried. Information will be sent to USDA for approval.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Havard inquired if Jason is going to get both water and sewer license or do we need to offer water license to Mitch. Jason is getting both licenses. Councilman Baty wants all councilmen to look at the basement in the community building. It needs water proofing in the near future. Councilman Baty complimented the Fall Festival and stated he enjoyed dealing with the carnival this year.

Mayor Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 8:15 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer