

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 8, 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, Carol Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Sheila Kirby, Sam Kirby, Jim Milani, Charles Jackson, and Marion Main were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Havard and seconded by Richardson to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-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, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to get a loan advance from our line of credit at Iowa Trust Bank for the water/sewer project in the amount of \$7,344 for last month's Municipal Supply bill. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to get a loan advance from our line of credit at Iowa Trust Bank for the water/sewer project in the amount of \$3,100 for this month's Municipal Supply bill and Rathbun Rural Water bill. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Richardson and seconded by Baty to transfer \$39,568.83 from Road Use Savings to General Checking to pay Lathrop Farms invoice. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – Marcia Benjamin stated the Betterment Committee would like to help with the removal of a house that was identified as a nuisance property by the city last month. More would be discussed during the Nuisance Property portion of the council meeting. Jim Milani complimented the town of Moravia and asked questions of the council regarding the cost of the water/sewer project and problems other places have had with electronic readings. He believes it is better to hire another employee and continue to read meters manually than to invest in electronic read equipment. This keeps people employed in Moravia, uses local labor, and their salaries are spent in Moravia. He inquired if Rathbun Rural Water gives the City a leak rate when we have leaks, inquired about interest rates and borrowing costs, inquired why the city did not do the work themselves on the project, and stated he would like to see Moravia be the cheapest place in the county to get water and sewer. He also discussed the Morgan Cline Foundation and the money they have available. The new Morgan E. Cline Charitable Foundation Executive Officer, Allison Fraser, was given a tour of Moravia's school and attended a lunch and tour when an Our Iowa group was at the depot. Charles Jackson inquired of the council what to do with old meters. Councilman Baty told him to take it out and put a plastic piece in its place. The City would provide the plastic piece. He also inquired when we would be cutting meters down. His is on the edge of his driveway and it will be snowing soon. Councilman Baty stated it would be cut down before it snows and told him that the pit cannot hold the weight of a vehicle and if he breaks it, he will have to pay for it. The driveway has widened through the years and we could not place the pit anywhere else. Charles also inquired how much the rates will increase due to the water pit project. Councilman Baty said the rates will not increase due to the project, however, due to DNR requirements we have to increase our sewer rates significantly by 2023. Sheila Kirby stated that for rural water, the minimum is 2000 gallons per month and the city's minimum is 4000 gallons. She inquired if the City will be lowering the minimum gallons. Council stated they will look at this once the project is complete, but there are still several meters in town that do not work that we are charging the minimum 4000 gallons per month.

Rich Wilson did not attend the meeting to discuss fences at Hillcrest Cemetery, however, Councilman Baty stated Rich will be running cattle on the property to the south of Hillcrest and the fence is the cemetery's responsibility per state requirements. We will need to get bids on it and put it in next year's budget.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Councilman Baty stated the ladder truck did not sell. The fire department is interested in buying a tanker truck to replace theirs. The new brush truck is in and will be picked up next week.

Library – No report was submitted by the Library Board. Mayor Brooks reported the library is having a Halloween party on October 26 at 10 AM. They will be reading books and telling stories to the kids and the kids can trick-or-treat them. This is being held in conjunction with the Fire Department's Halloween party on the same day so kids can attend both.

Cemetery – An ad for bidding on the work to be done to expand Hillcrest Cemetery was reviewed. The owners of the land that was formerly the old saw mill are considering leasing it to the city to use as a place to bring yard waste.

Parks – The playground on the square looks good and will not need borders put around the rubber mulch. The No Smoking signs are ignored. Councilman Richardson stated the signs do not say not to smoke, but the rest of the Council disagreed. We will not be putting gravel in the parking area at Trussell Park at this time because this is where excess snow is dumped. The railroad ties at Trussell Park are in need of being replaced. Iowa Southern Railway is donating railroad ties to the city for this purpose. The framework is up for the alumni wall/sign for Trussell Park.

Streets – Two major projects have been completed on Church Street and North East Street.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to write off and close Account #4176 for \$9.66. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried. Council agreed by consensus to send 30 day notice of tax lien letter to Account #1770.

Sewer – Nothing to report.

Nuisance Properties – Sam Kirby and Marcia Benjamin inquired if the Betterment Committee could work with the owner of a nuisance property identified by the city at the last meeting to assist in getting the house taken down. This would save the city money and make the community look better. The Betterment Committee wants to work with the city in a partnership, with the city assisting in trucking and getting debris out and the fire department's help with burning it. Council agreed by consensus to give the owner of the property 30 days to see if they agree to the Betterment Committee's offer of help.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported the Street Finance Report has been approved. The budget report, annual finance report, and street finance report are all changing to a web-based report instead of Excel. Work will begin on the Annual Finance report that is due December 1. Stogdill is enrolled in budget training on December 5 in Johnston. The City is set up in the State Offset Program. Election is November 5 at City Hall. Two residents filed for the Mayor position and nine for Council (one for the vacancy). Veterans Day is Monday, November 11 and City Hall is closed that day for the holiday. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council, including profit and loss statement, balance sheet, fund balances, budget, and payroll summaries. Jason Snow was not in attendance.

Resident Complaints – This was addressed in the Public Comments section with Charles Jackson.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the alcohol license application for Spencer's Grocery. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the information provided by Pastor Terry Chapman of the Nazarene Church regarding Myra Lane being given to the City. The Council agreed by consensus to do both Myra Lane and Church Street at the same time and to contact Craver & Grothe first.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed the proposed budget amendment with the Council. She notified the Council that cities under 2,000 population with \$1 Million or more in budgeted expenditures in two consecutive years will be required to have an annual examination. A public hearing for the budget amendment will be held at the next regular council meeting on November 12.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Several more pits have been installed. The pits that have been skipped over due to various reasons were discussed.

USDA Grant Update - The bids for the grant for the mini excavator, as well as the council's choice of the winning bid, has been approved by USDA. The excavator has been ordered.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty reported four street lights in town that are not working. Clerk Stogdill will report the lights to Alliant Energy for repair. Baty has not been contacted by Southern Iowa Technology regarding the security cameras to ask more questions about audio. Councilman Richardson has notified them but they are behind schedule and he suggested John call them instead.

Mayor Discussion Items – The mayor and council were all mailed brochures about cemetery restoration. Councilman Havard also knows a local person that does this type of work. Our cemeteries are not perpetual care but there is concern about some of the stones at the old cemetery. The Mayor read an email to the Council from a person who has purchased a home in Moravia and their disagreement with our rules about requiring a deposit and connection fee for water and sewer. Council stated it is in our ordinances and insures all customers are treated the same with this rule. Marion Main stated he also disagreed with the rules and felt the same way when he moved in town.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 7:37 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer