

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Gary Ehrle, and Don Havard. Councilman Shawn Richardson was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Larry Shepard, Roy Miller, Carol Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Chad Whitney, Pastor Christy Ehrle, Megan Irving, Sam Kirby, and Sheila Kirby were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Christy 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, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. 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 \$4,900 to pay the Municipal Supply bill. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Baty to transfer \$12,600 from Road Use Savings to Operating Checking-Road Use Funds to pay Monroe County Secondary Roads and L&W Quarries for Church Street repairs. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried.

Larry Shepard from Southern Iowa Technology answered questions from the Council about security cameras for City Hall and shop. The cameras he proposed have a five year warranty. The camera in city hall could be set up with audio for an additional \$125. Council agreed by consensus for him to proceed with installation of four cameras and audio on the camera inside city hall with a completion date no later than December 31, 2019, and to use the ICAP safety grant of \$1,000 for the purchase.

Chad Whitney and Megan Irving from the Fall Festival Committee inquired if two concrete pads could be installed in front of the stage in the city park on each side of the sidewalk in order for their bleachers to be bolted down on the pads year round. Their bleachers would not have to be stored or hauled and could be used by anyone for any event. Council requested measurements and a map to show exactly where they would be located and how they would tie in to the current sidewalk. The City will inquire with our insurance to see if this could even be considered. Further review will be held at the December 10 council meeting if it is allowed by insurance.

Comments from the public – Roy Miller stated he is looking forward to being Mayor and working with everyone. Marcia Benjamin voiced a concern about the Fall Festival Committee's request to install permanent bleachers at the city park stating it would be a disaster aesthetically. She urged the Council to set up the bleachers on a temporary basis for a month before they made a decision. Marcia also reported porch tours will be held this year, along with a home tour, on December 7 from 5 PM to 8 PM. This year they will be touring porches on West North Street and wagons and a van will be available to ride. The Betterment Committee may need the city's help with caution signs for traffic. Sheila Kirby stated her concern about accidents if kids are playing on permanent bleachers if allowed at the city park and bicycles and skateboards being rode on top of them. She also stated the Betterment Committee wants to enhance the look of the park and does not think this would look good.

There were no bids submitted for work needing done at Hillcrest Cemetery. Councilman Baty will talk to Tim Kittel about the project.

Motion by Baty & seconded by Havard to open the public hearing for the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried. No comments or questions, written or verbal, had been received at City Hall. City Clerk Stogdill reviewed the amended expenses and revenue that had been requested by the Council. No comments or questions were received by the public in attendance at the meeting. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to close the public hearing for the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #12-2019 approving and adopting the amended budget for 2019/2020. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Jason Snow reported nine incidents in October of which two were car wrecks and one medical/fire. The Fire Department received their new pickup and a box for it is ordered. An inspection on the fire truck and building the USDA finances was done by Ellen Walker. The department's bunker gear expires soon and grants, including USDA grant, need to be checked on to help pay for new gear.

Library – Report submitted by Library Board.

Cemetery – The old cemetery has several stones that need repaired. Grants need to be checked on to help pay for the cost of repairs. New fence and brush pile was discussed. Council declined request to pre-pay for cemetery spaces with selection of plot being done at a later time. This could possibly be done through the funeral home.

Parks – Railroad ties have been removed from parking lot at Trussell Park. Posts and chains will be installed in their place.

Streets – Councilman Havard reported Norris Asphalt will be here in early spring to do our road repairs. Rock is needed on the Blakesburg road for the winter. Fence is wired back up where tube was installed on Church Street, but needs to be welded. Councilman Ehrle

discussed the Betterment Committee's goal to improve the aesthetics of the city. On West North Street, there is a culvert that needs replaced. After it is fixed, they would like to build a wooden bridge over it. A plastic liner for the culvert was discussed. Councilman Havard will look at it and will have George Bob Robinson look at it after he joins the Council. Gas, water, and sewer mains, phone lines, and fiber optics are there. Agriland and property owner need to be involved too.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to send 30 day notice of tax lien letters to Accounts 1121 and 161.

Sewer – The alley behind the businesses should be completed by Lathrop Farms this week. Need to make sure grease traps are installed correctly.

Nuisance Properties – Betterment Committee received a bid to dig a hole and bury the house at property on South Henry Street but will need to be done when ground freezes. Jason Snow stated there is a service alley and a sewer main behind the house. Councilman Baty will get a list of junk vehicles and will contact the attorney about the building falling in next to City Hall.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill applied for LTAP Work Zone Sign grant. USDA grant money will be deposited in the city's bank account on November 14. Don Havard won the election canvass drawing that was held by the Appanoose County Auditor due to the tie in votes with Ronald Deal. Work on the budget will begin in December. Committees need to prepare their budget items. The clerk has completed work on the amended budget, annual financial report, and busy with election items and changes in residents' utility services. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council, including profit and loss statement, balance sheet, fund balances, budget, clerk's report, work orders, and payroll summaries. Jason Snow reported a flat tire on the skid loader. Four new tires are ordered. Christmas lights were discussed. City employees will get the lights ready and Councilman Baty will hang the lights the first warm day after Thanksgiving, but before December 7. Jason reported the sewer that collapsed in the back yard on West North Street has not been repaired by homeowner. Council requested a certified letter be mailed to the owner giving them two weeks to repair the sewer or the city will hire a contractor to do the work and charge the owner. Jason discussed the need for a place to store salt and sand out of the weather. Overtime was discussed. Council agreed by consensus for city workers to work overtime for snow removal since it is a public safety issue. A jon boat is needed to put in the lagoon so we can get an estimated cost of sludge removal. Councilman Baty has a boat the city can borrow. Action needs to be taken quickly for sludge problems. Sewer should have been dredged in 2013. A resident that had their water shut off for non-payment turned their water back on illegally. Sheriff was notified. City purchased a different style barrel lock so it will be obvious if it is tampered with. Manhole covers are being installed on top of pits in drives and are working well, however, more covers are needed. The new pit in the Methodist Church drive is being run over by citizen living next to church. Council agreed by consensus to send a certified letter notifying them not to run over pit or they will be charged for the cost of a new pit. Several locates were done in October. The new excavator is here. Pump house area is being cleaned up. Scrap prices are down so will haul off road tubes when price goes back up. The brush pile has been burnt again. Water fountain in city park has been winterized. The sewer is coming out of a clean out into a ditch at a resident's home. Council agreed by consensus to send a certified letter to homeowner giving them two weeks to fix it or the city will repair it and charge the homeowner. The property on Milwaukee Street that the city now owns was discussed. Attorney needs contacted about the semi trailer and the lease. Cement depth for monument foundations at our cemeteries was discussed. Foundations are being installed that are less than the required minimum depth of 42 inches. Letters will be sent to places in the area that install the foundations to notify them of the rule and the requirement to call City Hall first to have the area marked where the foundation is to be installed.

Resident Complaints – A resident stated they did not know water pits were being installed in yards and complained about the hole that was dug in their yard. Complaint has been taken care of by Mayor Brooks.

City Square Painting Project – Gary Ehrle discussed the Betterment Committee's proposed plans for the four corners of the square. Each corner represents a different theme (music, faith, culture, and education). They would like to paint the theme on the street at each corner, for example, paint piano keys on the street corner by the music. They invited the Garden Club and the High School Art Class to do the project. They are requesting use of the four corners of the square to paint on the street. Council agreed by consensus to allow paint on the city streets.

City Clerk Stogdill reviewed the Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2019/20. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve and adopt Resolution #13-2019 – 2018/19 Annual Financial Report. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Mayor Brooks conducted the first reading of Ordinance #2019-04 – Budget Preparation and Clerk Stogdill reviewed the changes done by legislature. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance #2019-04 – Budget Preparation due to it being required legislative changes. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Ordinance #2019-04 – Budget Preparation. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Mayor Brooks conducted the first reading of Ordinance #2019-05 – Conflict of Interest. Changes in the ordinance were discussed. Motion by Havard & seconded by Baty to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance #2019-05 – Conflict of Interest due to it being required by legislative changes. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty

and seconded by Havard to approve and adopt Ordinance #2019-05 – Conflict of Interest. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Contractor will return on Thursday, November 14. There are 52 pits left to install. Approximately seven of those are pits that will need to be handled on an individual basis.

The sale of the old excavator was discussed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to advertise the excavator for sale for \$20,000 twice, skipping a week in between, in the Ottumwa, Albia, and Moravia newspapers, and the Ad Express/lowegian. If not sold within thirty days, advertise in Equipment Trader. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Absent. Motion carried.

Future USDA grant – More information will be gathered for the December council meeting to review for consideration of a future USDA grant.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle checked on getting interest rates for the city's loans at Iowa Trust Bank lowered. The bank would consider lowering our interest rate for the water/sewer project loan once the project is complete but not the other loans. Municipal bonds through Piper Jaffray will also be considered. A representative could come to a council meeting to discuss. Gary discussed the fire truck we are trying to sell, saying large farm operators are interested in those types of trucks. He checked with Jeff Royer at Alliant Energy about the cost of operating our street lights. When lights burn out, they are replaced with LED lights, but they don't replace them otherwise. A light needs to be put up outside the shop with the installation of security cameras. This was Gary's last council meeting and he thanked everyone for the great opportunity. Councilman Baty requested Jason to pull the meter at the trailer where there was a fire. He reported a street light burnt out at East King and Dewey. The lights at Trussell Park ball field and tennis courts were discussed and we need to find out who pays for them.

Mayor Discussion Items – Census 2020 is hiring local people for census jobs paying \$15/hour. There has been a request to use the ball diamond and shelter house at Trussell Park in July. Council agreed there is no fee to use it but no guarantee of its availability. It is on a first come first serve basis. Mayor Brooks discussed grants and the funds that are available and acknowledged our local residents who write grants (Marcia Benjamin, Sheila Kirby, Kathy Uhlenhake, and Sharla Stogdill) and how much we appreciate them. Mayor Brooks thanked Roy Miller, the incoming Mayor, for attending the Council meeting and invited him to attend the next Rathbun Area Solid Waste Committee meeting with her on December 10 at 9:30 AM. Councilman Baty inquired about having a recycling trailer that stays in Moravia, instead of only being here two hours per month. Mayor Brooks gave brochures to Sheila Kirby and Roy Miller regarding municipal leadership training and pipeline safety training.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 8:30 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer