

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Irene Brooks at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Brooks, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, George Bob Robinson, Shawn Richardson and Don Havard. Jason Snow, Roy Miller, Carol Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Chad Whitney, Gary Ehrle, Megan Irving, Sam Kirby, and Sheila Kirby were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Gary Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brooks welcomed the public.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Richardson to approve the agenda as printed with the addition of Moravia Community Betterment. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Havard and seconded by Robinson to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Motion by Richardson and seconded by Robinson to get a loan advance (if needed) from the line of credit at Iowa Trust Bank for the water/sewer project in the amount of \$43,150 to pay the Cicco Construction and Lathrop bills. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Chad Whitney and Megan Irving from the Fall Festival Committee stated they have measured the area needed for the two concrete pads they requested 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. Because the pads would interfere with the memorial stones the Fall Festival is rescinding their request. The Council thanked the committee for their consideration and on-going communication with the Council.

Sam Kirby, Moravia Betterment Committee, informed the Council that in 2020 Betterment will continue Neighbor Helping Neighbor assisting individual property owners. However, Betterment would like to focus on ways to positively impact the community as a whole and benefit the city. Kirby stated to best aid the City it will be important to identify the Council's priorities. Therefore, Betterment requested all Council members to document the areas that each of the Council and newly elected Mayor feel are important to be addressed, i.e. derelict homes, junk vehicles, services, etc. Kirby asked that each Councilperson identify what they believe are the areas of improvement most needed and provide that information to Betterment. Betterment requested a meeting with the Nuisance committee prior to the January Council Meeting so a comprehensive plan could be completed and presented to the full Council at the January meeting. Once the Council has approved the 2020 goals/projects, then Betterment can begin to seek grant funds to address these areas. The Council agreed.

Comments from the public: Roy Miller stated he is looking forward to being Mayor and working with everyone. Sheila Kirby stated she too is looking forward to serving the community as Councilperson.

Mayor Brooks administered the Oath of Office to Mayor elect Roy Miller and Councilpersons Sheila Kirby and Don Havard. These positions will take effect January 1, 2020.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Jason Snow reported ten incidents in November of which one was a car wreck, two were structure fires, one mutual aid and six were medical.

Library – Written report submitted by Library Board.

Cemetery – The old cemetery has several stones that need repaired. Martin has been unable to reach the stone repair contractor. Work on Hill Crest cemetery will likely not occur until Spring. Robinson indicated he felt that was preferable.

Parks – Councilman Martin expressed concern regarding the lights in the shelter house noting it will be important to ensure lights that match are purchased for next year. Baty noted that Jim Baty has ground two tree stumps and ask Jason to identify any others needed.

Streets – Councilman Havard reported street repairs will likely be in early spring. Snow noted that he has put 60 ton of rock on the Blakesburg road. Snow stated the road needs to be bladed by the County.

Water – No delinquent accounts were reviewed.

Sewer – Councilman Baty noted that the sewer issue in the Alley behind Spencer's Grocery should be resolved. Councilman Baty stated many of the issues were related to the installation and whatever chemicals had created an almost 'spray foam' like substance that was plugging the sewer line. Snow was asked to request that Spencer's Grocery install grease drain traps.

Nuisance Properties – Councilman Baty asked about the progress on the burned debris on Charles Street. By consensus the Council directed a letter be sent to the property owner relative to concerns regarding burning of debris and identifying that the area needed to be cleaned up within 30 days. Councilman Havard asked about progress on notifying property owners regarding junk vehicles. Councilman Baty requested assistance from each Councilperson to provide him with the address and picture of properties where they have concerns so a list can be formulated.

The Council discussed concerns regarding individuals living in non-permanent structures, i.e. 5th wheel, motor home vehicles. Councilman Richardson noted he believed installation of utilities is required by any structure/vehicle being inhabited over a specified period of time as outlined in the Code. The Council and Mayor will closely review City Codes and consider action relative to any violation of City Code.

City Staff/Maintenance Director Snow reported:

- Tires on the skid loader were replaced.
- Christmas lights have been put up. Snow reminded the Council of the need for newer lights and problems related to the current lights, noting approximately \$200 was spent this year on new light bulb replacements.
- Steve Mihalovich has requested the alley behind Spencer's Grocery be reopened. Jason stated that he does not recommend the alley be opened because it is still very soft. Councilman Robinson recommended borrowing the roller from the school to try to pack down the area. Jason stated he had concerns regarding the potential damage to the new sewer line. Robinson stated the line was deep enough it should not be damaged. Councilman Baty agreed and recommended that after using the roller for a few times to then slowly utilize the water truck to ensure the area was ready for semi-trucks to utilize the alley. Jason stressed he did not feel the alley should be opened. By consensus the Council instructed Snow to utilize the procedure recommended by Robinson and Baty.
- The little excavator was sold for \$17,500.
- The sewer and water pit installation for the 'log house' has been completed. The Council reviewed the completed work orders.
- There are 27 water meters remaining to be installed. Councilman Baty noted that the majority remaining are ones that have special installation circumstances. There was discussion regarding how to address some of those unique meter installations. There are two water stops that Jason has been unable to locate. He has contacted the installer of the water line and will continue to try to locate these water stops. Councilman Baty will meet with Kirbys to discuss location of their water pit. Jason stated that it is his intention for the City Maintenance workers to address many of those installations during the winter months if possible as some will be inside.
- Prior to installation of the new water meters the city was using between 80,000 to 90,000 gallons per day. The current average usage is 39,000 to 40,000 gallons per day. Stogdill had estimated a 53.5% savings. Jason stated that more detailed calculations will be compiled, but he currently estimates a savings of approximately \$20,000 per year. Councilman Baty noted at this rate the money saved will "more than pay for the upgrades."

Mayor Brooks asked Jason Snow for an update on the Sewer Certification classes that Jason had agreed to complete by November. Jason stated the classes were too far away and he and the city did not have transportation so he did not attend the classes. Snow stated the next classes are not until February 2020.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill is recuperating from her recent emergency surgery. Her next doctor's appointment is on the 18th and she may try to work part time if released by the doctor.

Resident Complaints – There were no resident complaints documented. Sheila Kirby stated she had been contacted about a complaint relative to the water hook up charged. Sheila reviewed the City Code with the complainant. Sheila agreed to Mayor Brook's request to complete a resident complaint form to be kept on file.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Baty to approve Resolution 14-2019 "A Resolution to amend signatures and access on all accounts and lockboxes at Iowa Trust & Savings Bank effective January 1, 2020" Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Motion by Baty, seconded by Robinson to approve Resolution 15-2019 "A Resolution to approve and adopt the application for tax exemption established by the Moravia Urban Revitalization Plan in accordance with Chapter 404, Code of Iowa, for Aaron Kelly for commercial improvements at 308 North John Street, Moravia, IA 52571 (Lot 1 of Parcel A in NE Qtr 4-70-17). Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Mayor Brooks conducted the first reading of Ordinance #91-07: Water Meters: 91.07 Meter Repairs: "Whenever a water meter owned by the City is found to be out of order the Superintendent shall have it repaired. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or property owner, or the meter is not owned by the City, then the property owner shall be liable for the cost of repairs." Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Motion by Martin, seconded by Robinson to approve the "Return—To-Work Policy / Temporary Modified Assignment" and Return-To-Work Agreement" as recommended by the Insurance company and as presented to the Council. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

Motion by Baty, seconded by Martin to approve the "City of Moravia Bloodborne Pathogens / Exposure Control Plan and Procedures" as presented to the Council. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Richardson-Aye Motion carried.

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

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Richardson stated he has enjoyed serving on the Council. Richardson stated he felt he had learned from his experience and hope during his tenure the Council had made positive accomplishments.

Mayor Discussion Items – League of Cities is sponsoring a warranty program for residents to address repairs and damages relative to water and sewer issues that are the responsibility of the resident. The Council asked that more information be gathered to identify the cost to the resident. The City Council and Mayor were invited to the Iowa Trust Christmas Open House at Lucille's Steaks and Spirits from 5 to 7 p.m. on December 12, 2019.

Clint Woodward will be in charge of the ballfield at Trussell Park. Woodward was invited and agreed to attend the January Council meeting to discuss expectations of city and parent group. Snow noted that the volunteers had winterized the ballfield restrooms. It was noted that Woodward and others have donated a lot of time in the care of the ballfield.

Motion by Havard, seconded by Robinson to adjourn at 7:00 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Irene Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ John Baty, Mayor ProTem