

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, George Bob Robinson, Don Havard, and Sheila Kirby. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Sam Kirby, Chad Whitney, Kirah Whitney, Megan Irving, Zach Bedford, Tim Simpson, Chris Sheldon, Veronica Simpson, Terra Walker, Jessi Nicoletto, and Terri McCoy were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 regular meeting, January 23, 2020 special meeting, and the January 30, 2020 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – Megan Irving and Chad Whitney from the Fall Festival Committee requested permission from the City to apply for a grant through the city's name because the 501(c)3 for the Fall Festival Committee expired and the deadline to apply for the grant is the end of February. They are working on getting their 501(c)3 renewed and want to go through the City one last time. They will be applying for funds for barricades and display cases and will be requesting less than \$1000. City Clerk Stogdill told the Council that if they receive the grant through the City's name, it counts as income and an expense for the City and needs to be in the budget. Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson for the Fall Festival Committee to go through the City to apply for the grant for less than \$1,000. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance #2020-01–Sewer Rates was read by Mayor Miller. No questions or comments were made by the public. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2020-01-Sewer Rates. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Tim Simpson reported three medical calls in January. Mayor Miller reported the Fire Department elected Tim Simpson as Fire Chief, Paul Simpson as Assistant Chief, Willard Armstrong as 1st Captain, and Willie Lewis as 2nd Captain. Councilman Robinson stated the Fire Department's by-laws say the Fire Chief has to have four years of service and Tim only has three years of service and Tim's residency is not in Moravia. Tim stated he had moved to Moravia so he is a resident. Councilman Robinson stated if we approve it, we are not following the by-laws about the years of experience; if we put Tim in and he doesn't meet the requirements, the City might be liable. Jessi Nicoletto said they are considering amending the by-laws and changing it to three years but Councilman Robinson said it has to be approved by the Council. Councilman Baty stated Jason Snow contacted him the night of the Fire Department meeting and said Tim had close to four years of service. He did not realize he was not at three years yet. Jason stated he thought he had close to four years of service and with all of the training from his job, he felt he was qualified. Councilman Baty contacted Albia and they do not appoint positions, but Centerville does because they have two paid employees. Terra Walker stated 100% of the department approved and voted for Tim Simpson. Terri McCoy said she was under the assumption Tim was close in years of service. Veronica Simpson stated several others in the department have the four year requirement so why amend it. Councilwoman Kirby asked how many years the Assistant Chief has to have. Veronica Simpson said four years. Tim Simpson said they thought his qualifications at work made him qualified. Councilman Baty said he wanted the section of the by-laws about going to the Executive Committee if someone sees a problem removed because the Executive Committee or someone on it could be the problem. Baty stated if Tim is removed as Chief, you have to have another election. Paul Simpson would have to fill the Chief position temporarily since he is Assistant Chief. You could have the election at your regular meeting on February 17 or call a special meeting but everyone has to have the opportunity to be there. You need to have your meeting and amend the by-laws to present at the February 25 special meeting of the City Council. We will put the by-laws on our agenda for February 25. For now, leave everyone as is in their positions but Paul moves up to Fire Chief temporarily. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to accept all positions except Fire Chief and for the Assistant Fire Chief to become the acting Fire Chief. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Library – Report submitted by Library Board.

Cemetery – The pile of trimmings and wood chips still needs to be removed. City Clerk Stogdill reminded the Council that \$20,000 is budgeted in 2019/20 to open up a new section at Hillcrest Cemetery and must be paid by June 30. Councilman Baty said Tim Kettel will start work as soon as the weather breaks.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby discussed suggested rules for Trussell Park. Trash needs to be picked up and removed after every game. City employees should not have to pick up trash to mow. Cleanliness of concession stands and restrooms is a must and is not the City's responsibility. The City needs keys if locks get changed. Restroom facilities are not to be used if water has not been turned on. The City is not responsible for mowing inside the fence. Items stacked by the building must be removed so it can be trimmed around and a harrow with the spikes facing up is a safety hazard. Councilpersons Kirby and Martin will be discussing the rules with Clint Woodward.

Streets – Councilman Havard reported as soon as the weather breaks, Norris Asphalt will work on our streets. Councilman Robinson is making a list of repairs that need to be made.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to send a 30 day notice of tax lien letter to Account #3030. Three other accounts have been sent notices and have until February 16 to pay. Zach Bedford reported the DNR will be here on Tuesday, February 18 to conduct a water survey. Jason Snow reported daily water usage is higher than normal at around 43,000 gallons so there is a possibility of someone with a leak. Councilman Baty said there has been a lot of sporting events at the school lately too. City Clerk Stogdill asked the Council for clarification on deposits and connection fees for residents who already have an account and who purchase another property. Council agreed by consensus that if their current account is in good standing, we do not charge a deposit and connection fee on an additional account.

Sewer – Nothing to report.

Nuisance Properties – Council requested Jason Snow to contact Ted Clark to use a roto-rooter on sewage coming out of a clean-out going into a ditch at 106 South John Street. Owner and family have been contacted and it has not been repaired. Owner will be billed for cost and if not paid within thirty days, it will be assessed to their taxes. Junk vehicles were also discussed. Council needs to review list and determine if it meets the definition of a junk vehicle according to our ordinances. A manhole cover needs to be put on pit at property in West View and the attorney contacted to see how to remove tax assessment.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported the drop box with a lock on it has been installed by Mitch Main. We will need to purchase lettering that says “No Cash” to put on the outside drop. The electronic button for the door to the clerk’s office still needs to be installed. Four LED lights were installed last week in city hall. A bid for new lawn mowers was reviewed. The Profit and Loss Summary was reviewed with Council. Work on the budget continues. Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow reported moving lots of snow. A tire is bad on the orange truck. Recaps are \$265 each and would need to purchase four tires. Motion by Robinson and seconded by Baty to order four recaps at \$265 each. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Jason reported using the rest of the perma-patch. The State needs contacted about holes that were to be patched last year. Lights in the shop are needed and Council agreed to switch to LED. Jason will let Councilman Baty know how many lights are needed so he can order. Jason is enrolled in the on-line college class for preparing to get his water license. The light on the west side of Highway 5 intersection is out. Councilman Baty will contact REC. There is no light on the Moravia sign and four park lights are staying on all day.

Resident Complaints – None.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Jason purchased more readers and meters for the project. At the February 25 meeting, we need to have the invoice for approval so it can be paid through the line of credit which expires April 7. Once that is complete, we will be done borrowing money for the project and set the loan up on automatic monthly payments. The current principal balance is \$267,155. The City has made 24 monthly payments of \$1600 each since the start of the project in 2018. Jason received a price of \$22 for each part that is needed if we take out the old meters. Further discussion will be held on whether we abandon the old meters after we talk to other towns that have put in pits.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Havard asked Councilman Martin what he had found out about the land by the lagoon. The City needs a place to put brush. Councilman Martin has been unable to contact the owners.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller asked the Council what the plan is for the falling building next to City Hall. Councilman Baty will talk to attorney about it.

Motion by Robinson and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 7:02 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer