

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Don Havard, and Sheila Kirby. Councilman George Bob Robinson was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Carol Cloyed, Sam Kirby, Paul Simpson, Aaron Kelly, Gary Ehrle, Terra Walker, Georgia Smith, JoEllen Smith, Ann Repp, Ron Repp, Chris Sheldon, Darcy Sheldon, Marion Main, Stephen Pedrick, Ashley Snow, and Marcia Benjamin were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Gary Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 regular meeting, February 25, 2020 special meeting, and the March 2, 2020 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. The bill from Kratofil Repair Center for \$551.75 for repair of ambulance lights will be paid by funds from the ambulance department and not by the City. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to borrow \$11,946 from our line of credit at Iowa Trust Bank to pay Municipal Supply for the water/sewer project. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – Aaron Kelly requested permission to put a tube in a ditch on South East Street for a 40 foot driveway. He stated he would do the work himself. Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to allow Aaron Kelly to install a tube. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Ann and Ron Repp requested permission to purchase a plot in the old cemetery. Ann stated there were empty spaces south of her parents where they would like to be buried. Council agreed by consensus to allow them to purchase spaces at the old cemetery for \$300 per space which is the same price as spaces at Hillcrest.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve the Fire Department's by-laws amended on March 2, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Paul Simpson presented the Council with the officer roster showing Paul Simpson as Fire Chief, Willard Armstrong as Assistant Chief, Willie Lewis as 1st Captain, and Kevin Benell as 2nd Captain. Also listed were Veronica Simpson as Secretary, Ashley Snow as Treasurer, and Jessi Nicoletto as Executive Board Chairman. Terra Walker, Terri McCoy, and Chase Chidester are Executive Board Members. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the Fire Department's election results. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker discussed the City's NPDES permit and sewer/lagoon. The City is in a disadvantaged community status which gives them time to save money and investigate ways to reduce flows. Dredging and smoke testing were discussed. He recommended pumping sludge out of the lagoon and named Waggoner Solutions and Nutri-Jet as companies he knows about that can do the pumping. Stephen will contact the DNR to get correct dates for compliance. When Clerk Stogdill asked if he would be doing the city's progress report for the DNR, he stated he did not have a contract to do that for us.

The second 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 second reading of Ordinance #2020-01-Sewer Rates. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Paul Simpson reported six calls for February. Firefighter physicals with Med Compass are scheduled. Four will go to Centerville on April 14 for their physical and the remainder will be done in Moravia on June 1. The cost is \$200 per person, which is greater than the amount budgeted for physicals. To stay within budget, three physicals will be paid for with EMS money and Centerville will be paying for Willard Armstrong's physical. The new truck number will be 478. They have received an offer on the old yellow fire truck.

Library – Report submitted by Library Board. Ann Repp reported the library's security camera is not working properly. Councilman Baty will look at it. There is a leak on the tin roof over the steps going on to the stage, which makes it slick in cold weather. Gutters, eaves, and downspouts were discussed. Jason will get prices for seamless guttering. Ann stated the library is having a St. Patrick's Day party on March 14. Iowa Shares is now paying for inter-library loans. It will take longer to get a book, but it is free. Ann welcomed the Council to visit their library.

Cemetery – The bid for the fence at the cemetery was reviewed. Councilman Havard stated we need more than one bid. Councilman Baty will contact two more people to get more bids. Tim Kittel has requested a map of what we want the roads to look like. Councilman Baty requested Jason Snow prepare a map and he will meet with Tim to give us a price. The slope of the cemetery and diverting water to the north was also discussed. Councilman Martin spoke with his nephew about renting ground at the old saw mill. The cost is \$150 per month and the City would need liability insurance. Ken asked if each member of the Council would want to donate \$20 per month toward this cost and also pay back the City for the amount they receive for Council fees until this could be added into the budget. We would need to have dozer work done to clear it out. Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to lease the old saw mill ground for \$150 per month from Bill Strunk. Roll Call Vote: Ken Martin-Abstain due to family conflict, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Parks – Councilman Baty stated the northeast corner of the park on the square is all weeds and needs to be sprayed by a professional and seeded down afterwards. All four corners need attention. He will check on prices.

Streets – Nothing to report.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to send 30 day notice of tax lien letters to Accounts 161 and 1770. A leak was found by Jason at an unoccupied residence. 52,100 gallons of water leaked from the end of December to February 19. Tax liens were filed on February 18, 2020 for Accounts 3280 and 465. One resident's water was shut off for non-payment on March 10. Clerk Stogdill had a request from a customer who was in the hospital and paid their water bill late if the city would waive the late fee. Council agreed by consensus to waive the customer's \$1.18 late fee since the customer is in good standing. Councilman Baty brought the old meter from his house to show how rusty it is and why he wants the old meters removed. He installed a coupling for less than \$2. Jason Snow showed the Council the part that could be used. Baty stated it will average one hour per meter to replace them and can be done on rainy days. The City will only replace them during business hours. If unable to replace during business hours, the resident is responsible and must sign a waiver and can be given the parts to replace it themselves. If the meter is not easily accessible, it is the resident's responsibility and not the city's. Councilman Baty inquired how Jason Snow was doing with the on-line water class he was taking. Jason reported having 61 tests completed. Councilman Baty wants the class complete and for Jason to take the water test, or have it scheduled to take, by the next council meeting. The number of times the test is offered was discussed and Jason will check on dates. Councilman Baty wants Jason to study and take the class on his own time too, stating others in the past have done it on their own time, not the city's time. After the water readings at the end of the March for the quarter, monthly readings will begin.

Sewer – Lift station should have a 20 year life if maintained. Mihalovich pond was discussed.

Nuisance Properties – Junk vehicles were discussed. When asked if letters had been sent out, Clerk Stogdill reminded the Council at the February 11 meeting, they stated they were going to review the list of junk vehicles provided by the Betterment Committee and determine if they meet the definition of a junk vehicle according to our ordinances. The list does not state what kind of vehicle it is, it just says if it is a car, pickup, or camper, but no specifics. Stogdill recommended pictures and listing the make of the vehicle in the letters. Council wants letters sent to people on the list and Stogdill requested assistance from the council and mayor on the wording of the letter.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported there will be an IPERS audit on March 11 and her new computer will be installed on March 12. A past due invoice for \$665 was received from Chariton Valley Planning and Development for FY20 regional planning contribution. Council agreed by consensus to not pay. Iowa Trust Bank sponsors the Easter egg hunt and requested to close Henry Street by the Senior Housing and to use the park for the egg hunt on April 11. Council agreed by consensus. Alliant Energy asked if they could put a roll-off dumpster at the edge of the city's parking lot. They are taking down old cable television lines and need a place to throw them away. Council agreed by consensus to allow the dumpster but Alliant needs to contact Jason Snow prior to placing it there. The city's balance sheet and profit and loss statements were reviewed with the Council. In order to meet FDIC requirements and the city's resolution requirements for balances in combined checking accounts not exceeding \$250,000 and combined savings accounts not exceeding \$250,000 Clerk Stogdill stated the need to transfer money from Operating checking to savings. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to open a water savings account and transfer \$20,000 from operating checking. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to transfer \$20,000 from the Fire Fund Operating Checking account to the Fire Fund Savings account. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Havard and seconded by Kirby to transfer \$10,000 from the Road Use Fund Operating checking account to the Road Use fund savings account. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to open a sewer savings account and transfer \$20,000 from operating checking. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Jason Snow stated everything had been discussed that was on his list.

Resident Complaints – None.

Council agreed by consensus to hire two part-time seasonal employees for mowing and trimming and pay \$10 per hour. Fliers will be placed in businesses in town and at the school and an advertisement placed in the Moravia Union.

City-wide cleanup was discussed. Money is not in the budget for this year or next year to have the cleanup. It will be discussed next January in budget workshops.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the alcohol license application for Dollar General Store #20737. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer Project Update – Council agreed by consensus to end the line of credit for the project at Iowa Trust Bank and to set up automatic monthly payments for approximately \$1600 per month. Council also requested the interest rate be lowered for this loan.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Martin inquired about the office printer leaving streaks on papers. Sharla said she has a spare copier drum that she will be installing. He also stated the flag that hung on the east wall of the community building is missing and the outdoor light to the west entrance was not working. Light bulb has been replaced. The list of work orders for the month said to remove the plank at the Agriland/Mihalovich ditch but the plank is still there. Council agreed the plank is necessary or it will wash. Councilman Kirby reported Mayor Miller, Sam Kirby, and herself meeting with railroad personnel at the underpass on Brandon Street. The railroad stated the structure is safe and said not to paint it any more as that is the cause of the crumbling. Sam said you can see re-bar exposed and there is only one bolt holding one side of the sign and it is crumbling.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller requested to purchase new tables for the council room and council agreed by consensus. Roy met with the county engineer at the Agriland/Mihalovich ditch to discuss how the county could help. The county engineer will discuss it with the county supervisors to see about possibly installing a liner. The pipe coming from Agriland is too high and has to be dropped down. Mayor Miller will talk with Agriland. The weight limit on the streets and the weight of the trash collection trucks was discussed. It was noted that Albia runs smaller trucks. The owner had been talked to but is still driving on the streets. The Appanoose County Sheriff will be contacted to issue a citation. Dollar General wants to hook up to Rathbun Water instead of the city because of the cost and crossing private properties. After discussion, Council agreed by consensus to allow them to connect to Rathbun Water, but they have to connect to the city's sewer and to charge \$50 per month for sewer.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Martin to adjourn at 7:40 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer