

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020**

A special meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 2, 2020, at the Moravia Fire Department. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, George Bob Robinson, Don Havard, and Sheila Kirby. Sharla Stogdill, Kevin Benell, Tim Simpson, Jessi Nicoletto, Georgia Smith, Ashley Snow, Terra Walker, Paul Simpson, Veronica Simpson, Willie Lewis, Mitch Main, Cindy Stafford, Chase Chidester, Nathan Williams, Brad Scott, Terri McCoy, Willard Armstrong, Sam Kirby, and Marcia Benjamin were also present.

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

Councilman Baty said he spoke with the State Fire Marshal's office and they defined the education portion of Iowa Code 400.13 as supervisory positions and college majors, not extra training. A member of the Fire Department spoke with a different person at the State Fire Marshal's office and was told the code leaves the authority to decide and interpret to the city and city/county attorney. Iowa Code 400.6 was reviewed. The floor was opened for anyone on the Fire Department to voice their opinion about the by-laws with the promise that no names will be printed in the newspaper. The roster of members was written on the board to distinguish who were Fire Fighter I's, EMT's, and members. One member stated they believe Fire Fighter I's are at a higher risk because they go into hot zones and the opinion of the majority of the Fire Fighter I's is you need four years on the department and not three years. Another member disagreed stating the vote of the Fire Fighter I's is not more important than the vote of other members of the department. All votes are equal. The EMS and all of the Fire Department are under the leadership of the Fire Chief. Everyone needs to think about who can lead us. Another Fire Department member brought up the election for mayor. If someone is not happy about the outcome of that election, should we re-vote and have a new election for mayor? This election is the same way, it's already done. Another member said after the department voted, they wanted to change the by-laws. It was brought up about the number of paid employees one member of the department has and also that they live with a member of the department. Another member questioned how many of the Fire Fighter I's actually pack up. Concern was voiced about the number of people leaving the Fire Department and how it is crumbling fast. Safety is the number one concern. Everyone on the department agreed they are willing to risk their life for anyone else on the department. A member pointed out that the difference in four years versus three years of experience could be very different depending on the number of calls. If it was twenty years versus five years, it would be a better argument. The last fire they went on, they should have worn a pack, but did not. There has to be leadership at the fire. Confined spaces and training was discussed with one side saying you don't need confined space training and the other side saying if a building collapses, that is a confined space. Some fires involve propane tanks, so that training is needed. A lot of time is involved in being on the Fire Department and everyone has other commitments with their families and jobs. There are some members wanting Fire Fighter I training but they have not been able to find anyone to come to Moravia to do the training. It is a big time commitment to complete the training. Councilman Baty said to look into paying someone to do the training and we will look at the city budget to pay for it. When reviewing minutes of Fire Department meetings to look at the timeframe of what has happened, department members were unable to locate all of the minutes. One member resigned from the Fire Department before the City Council voted on three years versus four years of experience, citing the significant amount of time required to be on the department as the reason for quitting. Another member walked out of the meeting and resigned from the department.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to require four years of experience for both the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief positions. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Council wants the Fire Department by-laws amended and presented for approval at the Council meeting on March 10.

Motion by Robinson and seconded by Havard to adjourn at 8:11 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer