

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Don Havard, George Bob Robinson, and Sheila Kirby. Sharla Stogdill, Jason Snow, Marcia Benjamin, and Travis Squires were also present. Unidentified people were in attendance through the conference call available to the public. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 regular meeting and the March 17, 2020 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – None.

Travis Squires from Piper-Sandler presented information on capital financing and revenue bonds. Information for financing the upcoming lagoon project was discussed as well as debt consolidation.

The third 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 Kirby to approve and adopt Ordinance #2020-01-Sewer Rates effective June 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance #2020-02 – Monthly Meter Readings was ready 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 #2020-02-Monthly Meter Readings. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance #2020-02-Monthly Meter Readings due to minor wording change. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Robinson to approve and adopt Ordinance #2020-02-Monthly Meter Readings. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Reports were submitted by Paul Simpson. There were ten calls in March and sixteen calls in April. The 1993 fire truck was sold and needs to be removed from our insurance.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin is still waiting on contract for renting land for brush pile. Fencing at Hillcrest Cemetery was discussed. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to complete partial fencing on south and east sides of Hillcrest Cemetery. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Councilwoman Kirby talked to Ellis Paxston about fixing a stone that is leaning in the old cemetery. He would do it free of charge and seed some of the new gravesites that family has not done. Grants for repairing old cemetery stones may be available. The Council discussed car tracks in the old part of Hillcrest Cemetery and damage to stones. Cameras that send pictures immediately were discussed. Our cemeteries are not perpetual care and it is the family's responsibility to maintain their plots, but in some cases, there is not any family left to do the maintenance.

Parks – Councilman Baty repaired the park lights. Park on square has been sprayed but will need sprayed again in a month; then sprayed annually after that. Discussion was held about the railroad using Trussell Park as a parking lot. Golf balls are being hit into Trussell Park causing problems for the mowers. The new metal arch sign for Trussell Park will be installed next week. Installation of cattle railing to prevent vehicles from entering the park was discussed. The Betterment Committee received a tourism grant. They will be spending the grant money on lighting, fans, and a ceiling for the stage at the park. Before this can be installed, the roof on the stage needs fixed. Extensions on drain pipes at the library/community building are also needed.

Streets – Councilman Havard talked to Norris Asphalt and they will be in Moravia before June 1 to do street repairs. Councilman Baty said we would not repair North East Street at this time because it needs built up more. Other streets will be done instead keeping within the same budget amount.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to apply the leak rate to Account 2100 if leak has been repaired. Council agreed by consensus to send a 30 day notice of tax lien letter to Account 1770. The City received notice of money that will be received from the State Offset Program for an account that moved owing money. Clerk Stogdill reported we are saving up to \$3,000 per month on what the city pays Rathbun Rural Water since finding several leaks when the new pits were installed.

Sewer – The Council requested Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker attend the June council meeting to discuss using cameras and smoking the sewer, as well as discussing the Planning and Design loan for the lagoon.

Nuisance Properties – Junk vehicles were discussed and Council agreed to do sections of town at a time. Councilman Baty will get pictures of junk vehicles and detailed information required. Moffatt property on West Milwaukee must be cleaned up and trailer removed by June 1. Semi at 401 East King is in road and needs removed. Clean-up at property at 107 West Charles where trailer and building burned needs to be finished. House on South Henry Street will be taken down in June per Betterment Committee. The buildings by City Hall on South William Street will be addressed when courts are back in session. The notice regarding mowing requirements was published in the newspaper as required by our ordinances.

City Staff – Clerk Stogdill discussed financial reports and the need to transfer money from checking to savings to stay within our guidelines on fund balances. Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson to transfer \$20,000 from water checking to water savings and transfer \$20,000 from sewer checking to sewer savings. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Jason Snow discussed a resident's basement drain that is running on to a neighbor's property. There is no chlorine in the water coming out of the drain. Mayor Miller contacted ADLM and they said it is between the two homeowners. Snow reported putting cold patch on streets, ditching, locates, flushing hydrants, installing safety poles around the hydrant at the Nazarene Church, installing a lid on a water pit on Deborah Street, and repairing a wash-out on South Brandon. They will be doing a sludge test at the lagoon in the next few weeks. Council requested he order 20 more carp for the lagoon. They are putting dirt around pits. Most pits at Westview are done except where it was too wet to get in yards. Council approved by consensus for personnel to work four 10-hour days each week this summer, including the mowers. Snow reported completing the water class and fees are paid to take the test. Testing is not being done at this time due to the pandemic. He will take the sewer class this fall. DNR will be doing a sewer audit on May 22. The roof on the old pump house needs repaired. Councilmen Baty and Robinson will put a metal roof on.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported three resident complaints: Two calves were in a pen at Westview and were removed by the owner; residents were contacted about not parking in an alley; and a resident was asked to remove a tube that runs across their sidewalk if it is not raining.

The results of the public water supply sanitary survey were reviewed by Jason Snow. No major changes were listed. There is a new test they have to start doing and recommendations for changes, some of which we are not able to do in Moravia.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) final permit and compliance schedule was reviewed by the Council.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the Iowa Retail Permit Application for Cigarette/Tobacco for Dollar General. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson to approve Resolution #8-2020 – Application for Tax Exemption for Aaron Kelly at 106 South East Street. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Clerk Stogdill reported IPERS conducted a compliance audit for the year 2019 and there were no findings during the review.

Council agreed by consensus to continue to keep City Hall and the Library closed to the public and to review at monthly council meetings.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #7-2020-Wage Increases. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Information from the Canadian Pacific Railroad for proposed railroad communication towers was reviewed by the Council.

Mayor Miller reported on a grant that is available for railroad crossing arms. The total cost for the arms would be \$350,000 and if the grant was received the City would still have to pay \$25,000-\$35,000. Council agreed by consensus that the City would not be able to afford this.

Clerk Stogdill reviewed proposed changes and updates to the Employee Handbook with the Council. The final handbook and resolution will be on the June agenda for approval.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty discussed the snow removal that was done at the Post Office. Whoever pushes the snow left a pile of dirt and rock on the property next door and they also pushed snow into the road. The Post Office will be notified this is not allowed. Baty also discussed a bid for a skid loader brush for cleaning streets. New is \$6,236 and used is \$5,700. Council agreed by consensus to purchase a new one. The budget will be reviewed and a USDA grant considered before purchasing.

Mayor Discussion Items – The City received a letter from the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors requesting Moravia to submit a ballot question to be put on the September ballot to redirect a portion of Moravia's LOSST funds to fund the building of a new law center facility. The Council was not in support of this request and will not be submitting a ballot question.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 8:20 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer