

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at the Moravia Community Building. 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, Ann Repp, Paul Simpson, Pastor Christy Ehrle, Stephen Pedrick, and Mark Waits were also present. Jon Mullins was present through the telephone conference call. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Christy Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

Motion by Robinson 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 May 12, 2020 regular 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 Martin and seconded by Havard 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.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker addressed the council regarding the city's lagoon requirements and our disadvantaged community status, which has given us an additional five years to complete the lagoon project. A progress report is due May 2021 and we must re-evaluate flows by January 2022. Inflow and infiltration is the next step. Smoking of the sewer and jetting needs to be done and focus the videos where there are problems. We can apply for a Planning & Design loan at 0% interest for three years. Deadline to apply is July 1. Smoking would best be done in July or August when warm and the cost would be in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range. If the city can pay for it out of funds we have, we could get started sooner. Jetting would cost in the \$2-\$2.50/feet range. Basement inspections for sump pumps will need to be done. An engineer selection will need to be made and he recommends using Chariton Valley Planning & Development. They can do multiple projects and have October and January deadlines. Council requested Stephen put an agreement together to have at the July council meeting.

Mark Waits from the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors discussed their request to redirect 10% of the funds from our LOSST money to fund the building of a new law center facility for the next nineteen years. They are requesting we submit a ballot question to be put on the September special election ballot. They want to build a \$7.5 million dollar facility with 34 beds. It has been voted down twice to be paid through property taxes. Moravia receives approximately \$60,000 annually from LOSST so it would cost the city \$6,000 per year. Our current allocation is 50% for streets and 50% for the fire department. Council discussed this is a significant amount of money to lose out of each of these funds per year and how we count on it in our budget. Councilman Robinson questioned if it was voted down if we would lose our LOSST money completely. Mr. Waits was not able to answer that question and told us to contact the Appanoose County Auditor and our city attorney. Before they make a decision to put it on the ballot, the council wants an answer to that question. Clerk Stogdill will contact the Auditor on June 10 to find out. The \$1,200 annual fee we pay to the Appanoose County Sheriff was discussed and the possibility of being raised in the future. Council would like to get a report of their patrolling in Moravia.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Reports were submitted by Paul Simpson. There were six calls in May. Paul presented the EMS officer roster to the Council. President is Jessi Nicoletto, Vice President-Willard Armstrong, Secretary-Veronica Simpson, and Terri McCoy-Treasurer. They have done several birthday party parades and received donations for them. A new flag pole was installed. The Fireman's Bash is cancelled. Fireworks had been planned for July 11 but graduation has been changed to July 12. Council is leaving it up to the Fire Department to set the date to set off fireworks. SCBA's and jaws have been recertified. Pump tests will be done in July. Grants have been received. Physicals and FIT tests are required every five years per our insurance but they would like to split the department and do half each year. Med Compass has a \$1500 minimum to do the testing. Council agreed by consensus. Councilman Kirby discussed thank you cards being sent to donators. The fire department does send cards of appreciation but it is possible they could have missed one.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Ann Repp reported the library is still closed. Several books have been withdrawn from the fiction area and are for sale in the entryway. Desk shields are being made by Ron Repp. Library will be opening up so patrons may pick out their own books and movies. The number of people allowed in the library at one time will be limited. Inter-library transfers will be starting again.

Cemetery – Fence will be completed and paid for in June from current budget year. Councilman Martin's nephew has not been able to get here to get the legal description for the property we are going to lease by the lagoon. Councilman Baty stated we may need to purchase the land for the new lagoon.

Parks – Golf cart tracks at Trussell were discussed. Holes for the Trussell Park arch sign will be dug on June 10, weather permitting. Work on the stage needs to be done. There was a discussion to have employees paint when the mowing is done.

Streets – Street projects are complete. Shouldering needs to be done. Councilman Robinson would like to do a section of streets every two years with money we have in the bank instead of borrowing money. The Blakesburg road was discussed. It needs raised and more rock. A pipe collapsed at North East Street and East North Street and is taking the road with it. The board was removed and fence put back up by Agriland.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to shut off water for non-paying customers again (had previously discontinued during the pandemic). City received payment from a customer that had moved and account balance was turned in to State Offset Program. Clerk Stogdill reviewed the significant difference in the amount being paid to Rathbun Rural Water for the city's water since new water pits have been installed and many leaks found. In 2017/18, the city paid \$80,051; in 2018/19 paid \$70,359; and in 2019/20 paid \$47,538. A review of the income will be made at next meeting.

Sewer – There is a clean-out in a yard that is covered with a tin can. Councilmen Robinson and Baty will contact the homeowner to have them cover it.

Nuisance Properties – A trailer on East Chariton was torn apart and burnt. A letter will be sent giving them thirty days to clean it up. The burnt trailer and building on West Charles continues to be cleaned up. One side wall is left. Letters will be sent to owners of junk vehicles giving them options to do on a voluntary basis. If not taken care of, then the ordinance will be enforced. Grass in yards was discussed and none need to be mowed by the city at this point. Property on West Milwaukee is being cleaned up. Jon Mullins stated on the telephone that he wants to bid on the property. Councilman Baty stated the school wants to build a bus barn there. There are bees in the old house and a person has called the city wanting to remove the bees. He needs to sign a release form first. The building falling in on South William Street will be discussed with city attorney as an emergency building that needs to be removed. The house on South Henry was discussed and they are waiting on Redinbaugh to dig hole. Crushing it and carrying it out would be the best option. Owner is responsible for paying for cleanup.

City Staff – Clerk Stogdill discussed financial reports, the budget, and profit and loss statement. She will be on vacation the week of June 29. The Fiscal Year will be closed out in the books in July so there may not be a full set of reports until the August meeting. Consumer confidence report published this week and notification on next water bill of where to view the report. Jason Snow discussed a tube in the alley on Dewey/Grant. It is now flowing fine with a 3" fall and is ditched. They have laid eleven ton of cold patch on streets. Road edgings are being done with finer millings from street project. They continue to level pits and put dirt around them. Thirty carp have been put in the lagoon. DNR completed their inspection of our sewer. The road around the lagoon has soft spots and needs rock. The water between two neighbors was discussed. Since it is private property, the city is not involved. Council suggests he fix it himself with permission instead of spending money on a lawyer. On Saturday, May 16, there was a water leak on North William Street. An old water stop was run over with a skid loader and snapped the water line off. A bill needs to be sent to the renter for man hours and machine time to fix the leak. Pumps and filters at the lagoon have been serviced.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported on a resident complaint about the gutters at West View. Notification was sent to a resident to have their dog removed from the city due to biting. Dogs running loose reported. Letter will be sent to owners with warning before a citation is issued. A complaint was received regarding horse manure in the streets.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Robinson to approve the cigarette/tobacco/vapor products permit for Spencer's Grocery. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #9-2020 – Employee Handbook was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Havard to approve Resolution #9-2020 – Employee Handbook. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to set up the street project loan at Iowa Trust Bank for 60 months at 2.75%. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #10-2020 – Street Project Loan was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to approve Resolution #10-2020 – Street Project Loan. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the fire department filling swimming pools. Liability issues are a concern for the council. It is good relations for the fire department. Council agreed to continue doing it unless we have more problems. Cash must be paid in advance to fill the pool and the fire department collects the money.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Robinson wants to buy a new building to replace the pump house that is beyond repair. There are buildings for sale by Wal-Mart for approximately \$4,000. We could store the Christmas lights and water parts and fittings in the building and put it by the city shed. Councilman Baty suggested having the Moravia or Albia school build us a building for a school project or to have someone construct one instead. Councilman Kirby discussed the ordinances stating there is no camping in the park allowed.

Mayor Discussion Items – Re-opening of city hall was discussed. Council is leaving the decision with the mayor and clerk. Since there are corona virus cases in Moravia, it will remain closed to the public until further notice.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 8:00 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer