

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, July 21, 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, Marcia Benjamin, Stephen Hausner, Heather Whitney, Chad Whitney, Megan Irving, Charlene Elliott, Danny Moore, Helen Farar, and Margaret Richardson were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Robinson and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 regular meeting and the June 15, 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 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 – Members of the Fall Festival Committee (Megan Irving, Heather Whitney, and Chad Whitney) discussed the plans for the upcoming Fall Festival. Plans are being put in place to hold the festival safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to decrease face to face contact, there will be a designated entrance and exit from both the community building and the tent. Carnival rides will be sprayed with a sanitizer that lasts 24 hours and hand sanitizer will be available at every ride. Portable hand sanitizer booths will be available. Special rules are being made for the use of golf carts and other motorized vehicles in the park. The Festival Committee requested the City order the same number of portable johns as last year. The Council expressed safety concerns for using South William Street due to the building on the square that is about to collapse. It would not be safe for the parade to be in front of the building. A special meeting will be scheduled with the city attorney and the Fall Festival Committee.

Helen Farar addressed the Council regarding the stop sign at Brandon and West North Street, noting that two semi-trucks ran the stop sign this week. Council agreed to talk to the Appanoose Co Sheriff and to check into the cost of a stop sign with lights and other ways to bring attention to the stop sign. Stephen Hausner stated there could possibly be funding available for signs through the Iowa DOT.

Charlene Elliott inquired about the bank on the west side of her property, stating during the summer of 2015, the street was black-topped and some of the bank got cut off and is dangerous. Councilman Baty said the city can only dig on our right-of-way. Mayor Miller and Councilman Robinson will look at it and let her know if there is anything the city can do.

Stephen Hausner from French-Reneker reviewed the Engineering Services Agreement for the sewer project with the Council. The project would be completed by September at a cost of \$14,000. Services include smoking of the sanitary sewer collection system and manhole observations. Messages would need to be put on water/sewer bills to notify customers of the smoking tests, as well as an article in the newspaper. Motion by Robinson and seconded by Kirby to sign and approve the Engineering Services Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. Moravia was approved for the Planning and Design loan. An income survey will need to be completed for the project for grant funding availability. Pathfinders and Chariton Valley Planning and Development could conduct the survey. After the smoking is complete, the next step is to take videos of the sewer.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Report submitted by Paul Simpson. There were 16 calls in June. Council noted the nice fireworks display held after graduation.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board.

Cemetery – Councilmen Martin and Havard noted the fence at Hillcrest looks good. The hay is baled. Brush pile needs pushed in again.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby noted the park looked very nice at graduation. Bushes were trimmed and mowing and trimming looked good. The stage looked very nice.

Streets – Councilman Robinson stated they are getting prices for the project by Paul Mihalovich's house. The overpass has been mowed.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to write off and close Account 3280. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to write off and close Account #465. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. Tax liens are filed on both accounts being closed. Consensus by Council to send a 30-day notice of tax lien letter to Account #161.

Sewer – Concerns about the affidavit operator not living in town and DNR requirements to have samples done by the affidavit operator seven days a week were discussed. Chris Sheldon has his license and lives in town. If hired, he could take the daily samples, complete all reports, and be in charge of the water and sewer for a cost of \$800 per month. If there is a water or sewer break, he would charge \$18 per hour. With the other two city employees and Chris, the city would not need to hire McCann for breaks. The school could also hire him part-time and do a cost sharing of his salary. Councilman Baty will ask Chris to write up a proposed agreement with the City to present at a special meeting to be scheduled. Councilman Baty stated the school could also hire the city clerk part-time to do Human Resources tasks for the school and share a portion of the clerk's salary with the city. The school superintendent will set up a meeting with the mayor and clerk to discuss details further.

Nuisance Properties – Letters for junk vehicles were reviewed by the council and will be mailed. The falling building at 106 South William Street owned by Jackie White was discussed. Lathrop could tear the building down for \$60,000. Asbestos testing would cost approximately \$1200. If asbestos is not in the bricks, the bricks can be dumped in a ditch and the cost to tear down the building decreases considerably. Possible grants for asbestos testing could be available. A councilperson will meet with the owner of the property and the building will be discussed with the city attorney at a special council meeting. The city's property at 305 West Milwaukee was discussed. No clean-up has taken place for a long time. Council requested Mayor Miller contact the person doing the clean up and tell him to finish it or the city will remove it. A dumpster needs to be placed there and the house needs taken down. Councilman Havard will contact Tim Moore. Councilman Martin reported weeds needing trimmed at the sound end of West Street. Councilperson Kirby noted the brush needs cut at Grant Street and East North. Mayor Miller gave Terri Seals a copy of the ordinance stating how mobile homes are to be tied down. Court date for moving the trailer was last Tuesday. The email from the city attorney regarding how citations are to be handled was discussed. Council agreed by consensus to pursue all citations. Councilman Baty stated we need to hold off on purchasing a new mower for this year due to budget constraints. Raven Stump was given until July 16 to clean up her property at 501 East Chariton. The clean up is not complete but progress is being made. More time will be allowed but the progress will continue to be monitored.

City Staff – The city clerk's new computer will be installed on July 22. A conference call will be held with ClerkBooks on July 27 to close out the city's books for fiscal year 2019/2020. After the books are closed, work will begin on the Street Finance Report and reports for the fiscal year will be given to the council at the August regular meeting. A fuel tax refund of \$835 has been requested. Clerk Stogdill asked for requests from the Council on how to spend the \$1000 ICAP safety grant this year. IMWCA is conducting their annual payroll audit. Clerk Stogdill reminded the Council of the tight budget for the year and keeping our expenses under \$1 million. \$738,790 is the current budget and already have \$112,000 for the lagoon planning and design as well as \$14,000 for the smoking of the sewer. Cuts will have to be made in the budget to accommodate this. Council was given updated ordinances for their ordinance books at home. Jason Snow was on vacation and was not at the meeting to give a report.

Resident Complaints – A mowing complaint was received and 48 hours was given to get the property mowed or the city would mow it and charge accordingly. Property has been mowed.

The penalties in our Code of Ordinances was discussed. Iowa Codification needs to be contacted regarding the penalties and how to issue citations without involving the cost of the city attorney.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility Compliance Inspection Report was reviewed by Council. French-Reneker will find out if the DNR can force the city to provide emergency power at the lift station and lagoon. Leffler Dirt Works will contact the city with a price for dredging the lagoon. They recommend it be dredged in the fall.

Resolution #11-2020 was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson to approve Resolution #11-2020 – Application for Tax Exemption for Mitchell and Jeannie Main at 502 Cummins Street. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

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

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty inquired about the No Smoking signs that were supposed to be at the park. Signs need to be made more visible.

Mayor Discussion Items – The DNR was in town to inspect the leak between the Simondale and Basinger properties. The DNR reiterated the same thing as the city did that it needs to be repaired by the owner with cement. DNR will contact Simondales. Richard Albertson inquired with the mayor about the status of tearing down the house by his property. He stated the house is coming off of the foundation and more animals are living in it. Owner is waiting on Redinbaugh to do the work and he will be working in Centerville next week. Marcia Benjamin noted Jason Snow had said something was in the way that needed taken care of in order to dig. Council noted contractor would be responsible for calling One Call before digging.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Martin to adjourn at 7:07 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer