

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020**

A special meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:03 PM on Tuesday, August 4, 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, and Zach Bedford were also present. Megan Irving was in attendance during the Fall Festival part of the meeting. Attorney Nicole Cox was present via telephone conference call during the closed session of the meeting. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Comments from the public – None.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to enter in to closed session at 5:07 PM under Iowa Code 21.5(C) for the purpose of discussing strategy with council in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson and seconded by Baty to come out of closed session at 5:30 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Affidavit Operator – Councilman Baty told Zach Bedford the city needs an affidavit operator that lives in town and can do the samples seven days per week and it had nothing to do with his job performance. Mayor Miller asked Zach Bedford if he wanted to go into closed session. Zach declined the closed session. Zach stated anyone could do the samples under him and that it did not have to be the affidavit operator. Sam Swenson (Moravia Superintendent) met with Mayor Miller and City Clerk Sharla Stogdill regarding sharing a maintenance position between the city and the school. He did not think the part-time affidavit operator position would qualify and wanted to possibly do a maintenance position instead. The Human Resources position will probably not work either if we are doing a maintenance position. October 1 is the deadline. A proposal from Chris Sheldon to be the city's water and sewer affidavit operator for \$800 per month plus \$18 per hour when called in was reviewed by the Council. The City pays Zach \$550 per month and budget restraints were discussed. Councilwoman Kirby did not agree with paying \$18 per hour if called in. Councilman Robinson stated we would be paying for his knowledge. Councilman Havard also did not agree with paying \$18 per hour if called in and thought \$800 per month was enough. Councilman Robinson stated it was the same as employees now. If there is an emergency call-in, employees get comp time at time and one half. Clerk Stogdill pointed out that comp time was time off in lieu of pay and, in this case, it would be dollars from our budget. Mayor Miller and Councilwoman Kirby voiced budget concerns. Councilman Havard noted it is a rarity to work overtime in the case of an emergency. Councilman Baty pointed out they would not have to call McCann's. The leak at the Methodist Church was fixed in six hours so that would have been \$108 compared to the price of having a contractor come in to help. Motion by Baty and seconded by Robinson to hire Chris Sheldon as affidavit operator for water and sewer effective Sunday, September 6, 2020 for \$800 per month plus \$18 per hour if called in. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried. The Council thanked Zach for his time as the city's affidavit operator.

Fall Festival – Mayor Miller called Megan Irving to notify her the council was ready to discuss the Fall Festival. Megan was at a meeting at the community building and came to the council meeting after being called. Councilman Baty told Megan the council was working on the issue with the falling building on the square and there was movement by the owner to get it torn down. Our city attorney is checking to see if we have liability if we install a fence around the building. More than likely, the building would not be torn down by the time of Fall Festival. Council would shut off the entire street in front of the building. Parade route would need changed and cake walk moved. Councilman Robinson inquired if the festival committee has considered cancelling due to COVID. He thinks it should be cancelled and does not feel right giving permission to use the streets. Wapello County is in a red zone and if people from there attend, they could bring it to our town. Councilman Baty stated he has gone back and forth on whether we should hold the festival, citing people from Des Moines were at the lake all summer. Councilwoman Kirby stated people that don't know they have it and are contagious could attend. Between COVID and the falling building, we have two things against us. Megan stated they are continuing to make plans as though it will happen and would move the parade and cake walk if necessary. They have talked to ADLM about any extra restrictions. The six-foot social distancing is in effect until the end of August and they recommend wearing a mask. The committee will attend the August 11 regular meeting to discuss further.

Council Discussion Items – The former Moffatt property now owned by the city was discussed. Old junk campers are still there. Councilwoman Kirby said the Betterment Committee will help with labor cleaning up the property. After the city cleans up the lot, Councilman Baty said he wants to offer it to the school for whatever amount we have in it. Councilman Robinson said you must put it up for bid. Councilman Baty requested the clerk inquire with the city attorney if it was possible to sell the lot to the school without putting it up for bid.

A question was asked by a resident who received a letter from the city if they must put a vehicle behind a fence or in a building. They keep it for a spare for the vehicle they are driving. Mayor Miller will review the ordinance.

Councilwoman Kirby inquired if they city could put up a “Stop Ahead” sign at Brandon and West North Street. Prices of flashing stop signs are very expensive. The school crossing by the railroad tracks needs painted.

The ditch and bank behind Charlene Elliott’s house was discussed. There is nothing the city can do. She can kill weeds this year and plant wildflowers next year. The city needs to trim the weeds at the corner.

Councilman Baty inquired about the odor on Church Street. Councilman Robinson said there was a clean out with no cap on it. City needs to cap it.

Councilman Havard discussed a ditch that needs cleaned out where the dirt was hauled in at the Light of Life Church. Water is not draining. Also, water stands against Frontage Road at CD’s. Councilman Robinson will look at both places.

Mayor Miller requested to move the September council meeting from September 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Labor Day holiday and the clerk being on vacation. Council agreed by consensus.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 6:17 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer