

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 11, 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, Bill Benjamin, Chad Whitney, Megan Irving, Paul Simpson, Sam Kirby, Bill Topp, Judith Topp, and Nick Main were also present. 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 Kirby to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Robinson-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 regular meeting and the August 4, 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 Baty 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 – Sam Kirby stated the Betterment Committee would provide volunteer labor when the city cleans up the former Moffatt property. Let him know a date so he can get the volunteers lined up. Sam also said he hoped to hear from Agriland this week regarding the containment box for the Mihalovich property.

Megan Irving and Chad Whitney, representing the Fall Festival Committee, stated 23 businesses have donated to the Festival. They asked the Council for their approval and support of the Festival. Councilman Robinson said he had supported the Fall Festival for years but does not think we should have it this year due to the pandemic. Councilman Baty said if you have it, the school kids will be here. He didn't know how much participation there would be from the marching band; he could not speak for them. The school will have floats and food as normal if we have it. Megan Irving said there would be changes, such as reinforcing six feet social distancing and limiting the number of people in food tents. There will be one-way traffic through the tent and community building. The carnival will disinfect rides and there will be sanitizer at each ride as well as a tent with hand sanitizer. Masks will be recommended. ADLM recommendations will be followed. Councilman Martin said there was no panic when we had the H1N1 virus and that the news media puts us in the panic, stating if you don't agree with having the Festival, then you should stay home. Councilman Baty said there is concern but we have to have something to do. It would be like the Big 10 cancelling football with no outbreak. When asked about changing the parade route due to the falling building on the square, Megan said no final decision has been made of what the new route will be. The committee is meeting again on Thursday. Council stated the falling building on the square will be fenced off if it is not down by Festival time. If the building is down in a pile with fence around it, the street can be open. Councilman Havard stated people can come if they want to and if not, don't come. Councilwoman Kirby agreed with Havard. Megan said Monroe and Wayne Counties have had fairs and the Putnam County Fair is still scheduled. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to allow the Fall Festival to take place and use the city streets and community building and to pay for half of the portable johns. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Nay, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Report submitted by Paul Simpson. There were 11 calls in July. They have been sized for new gear and will receive it in approximately eight weeks. The pumper truck needs repairs and Paul is waiting on the price.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Mayor Miller reported what Library Director Ann Repp had told city hall. There were no changes to report except that the roof on the stage was rattling when we had the high winds this week.

Cemetery – Paul Simpson inquired if a border that is flat to the ground with rock inside the border could be put around a stone. Councilmen Havard and Baty noted the rules say any objects have to be on the stone/foundation and we have to abide by the rules. Clerk Stogdill reported on two questions that had been asked at City Hall. There had been an inquiry about allowing a cremation to be moved to a different space. Council said it had to go through the court system and be done legally and we would be required to allow it, but only if done legally. An inquiry had been made from someone who had purchased a space but at time of purchase, the space they wanted was not for sale because there was a tree there. The tree has blown over in a storm and has been removed now and they wanted to trade spaces. Council will not allow anyone to be buried there because the tree roots are still there and at one time the Garden Club had been given some spaces to plant trees so they may plant something else there since the tree is gone. Clerk Stogdill also inquired if any trading of spaces is allowed at the cemetery for someone that changes their mind and wants a different space. Council will not take spaces back once they are sold unless they are donated back to the city. They can purchase another space. If someone sells a space, they need to let the city know so we have record of who owns the space. Fallen head stones were discussed. If hit by mowers, the city is responsible. Councilman Havard stated grass is on stones and is not being wiped off and stones are being hit. Councilman Robinson and Mayor Miller spoke with the mowers about slowing down and staying one foot away from stones.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby inquired about repairs to the community building. There is still water coming in the basement and downspouts are needed. She also reported the Betterment Committee received a \$4,500 tourism grant to be used at Trussell Park. They will be landscaping by the sign and working on the shelter, painting it blue and white to match the other buildings.

Streets – Councilwoman Kirby inquired about the big dip in the westbound lane at Highway 5 and West North Street. Jason Snow stated countless bags of Perma Patch have been put there, as well as cold patch. It has been chip and sealed by the county at least twice. Councilman Robinson agrees it needs to be fixed but not now. We do not have the money in the budget for it and it needs to be taken out and patched.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Clerk Stogdill reported disconnecting the water at five residents for non-payment, but all have been paid now and reconnected.

Sewer – Councilwoman Kirby has watched the sewer smoking being done by French-Reneker. Councilman Robinson reported there was so much water inflow at the old part of the school they were unable to smoke it. They have found several places with infiltration. Clerk Stogdill received an email with information about the 2020 Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program (WTFAP). Council agreed by consensus to apply for the grant with assistance from French-Reneker.

Nuisance Properties – We received one written response to the letters that were sent out about junk vehicles. Mayor Miller reported our ordinances state if vehicles are fenced in where you cannot see them, it qualifies. Councilwoman Kirby reported a dead tree in Linda Ballanger's yard that is a hazard and danger to the public. It could fall down on the sidewalk and could hit power lines. After discussion over who is responsible, it was decided to have the Betterment Committee request permission from the property owner to remove it. The bank behind Charlie Elliott's house was discussed. Councilman Robinson and Mayor Miller looked at it and told her there is telephone lines there so a skid loader cannot be used on it. They recommend using a weed eater on it or spray the weeds and plant wildflowers. The demolition of the former Moffatt property the city owns was discussed. Council wants Jason to use the city's track hoe and put the house in dumpsters. Mitch can do the sewer smoking while Jason works there. The house will not be burnt. Council requested Jason to contact Carter-Miller to get prices for dumpsters. Jason is to schedule cleanup with Sam Kirby so Betterment Committee can assist with labor. The house on South Henry Street owned by Jackie White was discussed. Redinbaugh is scheduled to be there soon. Jason Snow stated there are clay drain tiles on the east side of the property so house cannot be buried there, as it would flood basements. Jason will get footages and mark them but will not know where personal lines are located.

City Staff – Clerk Stogdill reviewed the fiscal year 2019/2020 reports. End of year adjustments made when closing out the books for the year were reviewed and signed by Council. The balance sheet with fund balances and checking and savings balances was reviewed. The profit and loss report by fund were reviewed, showing a total profit of \$26,801.09 for the year. A report showing the comparison of the money that was budgeted versus spent was also discussed. The clerk reported she is working on the street finance report and will have it ready for approval at the September meeting. Rathbun Rural Water donated face masks and a digital thermometer to the city. They had received extras from FEMA and was donating to various places. Administrative Supervisor Jason Snow reported they are helping with smoking the sewers. Two mowers broke down and have been repaired. Trees around town are being trimmed, streets are being patched, and mowing.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported on two resident complaints. A complaint was received about a parked truck blocking the view at a stop sign. Roy checked on it and it is parked in the driveway so nothing can be done about it. He received a complaint about a conflict of interest with Councilman Baty being on both the school board and the city council and the plan for the former Moffatt property. Councilman Baty said he will abstain from voting on the subject at both places.

Councilman Baty introduced Resolution #12-2020 and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Robinson; and after due consideration thereof by the Council, the Mayor put the question upon the adoption of the said resolution and the roll being called, the following named Council members votes as follows: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Whereupon, the Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted to fix a date for a public hearing on September 15, 2020, on a proposal to enter into a Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$112,000.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty met with Wirtjes Concrete and Construction at the Mihalovich property to get an estimate to build a drainage box to stop erosion. The estimate is for \$7600. Before we take action, we need to know how much Agriland will pay. Clerk Stogdill reminded the Council it is not budgeted, so will need to remove other items from the budget to be able to afford it if they decide to do it. Councilman Baty talked to Pierce Fencing in Ottumwa about installing six feet tall fence panels around the falling building on the square. They charge \$6.25 per foot and we would need approximately 225 feet, for an approximate cost of \$1,400. There would be sand bags and it would be on stands so it can be moved easily. The company sets up the fence. Our city attorney recommends installing fence immediately. Councilman Baty will also check on prices with Gullett Fencing in Ottumwa. Motion by Robinson and seconded by Kirby to take the cheapest bid of the two and install fence this week. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Robinson-Aye, Havard-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Councilman Baty will also check on how long the fence can be there for the same price.

Mayor Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Havard and seconded by Robinson to adjourn at 7:00 PM. All Ayes - Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer