

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, John Baty, Gary Ehrle, and Sheila Kirby. Councilman George Bob Robinson was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Paul Simpson, Chris Sheldon, Jason Snow, Pastor Christy Ehrle, and Ann Repp were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Christy Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Martin and seconded by Ehrle to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – None.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed the FY 2019/2020 Annual Financial Report with Council. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution #16-2020 – 2020 Annual Financial Report. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Council reviewed a list of water pits remaining to complete the city project. The remaining project will be tabled until spring.

Council reviewed the cost of a pothole vac and will consider at budget time.

Councilman Ehrle has received complaints of residents burning trash, plastic, and rubber after dark. In the past, the sheriff has been called, but resident was only given a warning and burning continues. He reviewed the solid waste control ordinance (chapter 105) and suggested changing the ordinance so you cannot burn anything after 5 PM or before 8 AM. Council agreed 5 PM was too early since people are not home from work yet at that time and reiterated that household trash, plastic, and rubber were not allowed to be burned inside the city limits. Since a lot of dumpsters are picked up monthly, the weekly requirement and ordinance need further review.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson reported 9 calls for October. An updated fire department roster was given to the council. The fire department thanks the community for their support of fundraisers. They are planning a free Thanksgiving dinner for the community as a way to give back. Meals will be delivered to residents who sign up. An insurance claim for \$2,000 was filed for damage to their 2019 Ford F350 truck. City has \$1,000 insurance deductible. Walker Welding is repairing the damage. Check from insurance company for \$1,000 has been received. Signs that show Fire Truck Entrance were discussed. Mayor Miller said the price would be \$180. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to purchase two reflective signs with a picture of a fire truck for \$180. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Flashers may be added to the signs at a later time. The burning of the debris at 305 Milwaukee was discussed. Chief Simpson stated if the city would pay for the asbestos testing, the fire department could also burn the house. Council agreed by consensus and requested Paul contact Environmental Edge in Ottumwa regarding asbestos testing. The Fire Department requests access to the city's excavator to lay the house down. Councilman Baty stated we would have Mitch Main do it or at least be on standby. The heat from the fire will kill the trees but those will be dropped later. The fire department has made stickers to give to kids and is ordering stocking caps and shirts.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported the library's annual report is complete and submitted. The State is changing their email, website, and the way inter-library loans are delivered. Beginning November 16, the computers may be used at the library. There is a limit to the number of people and the length of time the computers can be used. The library joined with the Fire Department for Halloween treats for the kids. Ann commented the lights at the library are appreciated when dark outside when they leave.

Cemetery – Mayor Miller reported Thomas Funeral Home called and apologized for not contacting the city about burials and said they will be sure to call in the future. They paid the marking fee for the recent unauthorized burial.

Parks – The slab for the rock in the park is done and placement of the rock may happen on Friday, November 13. The Betterment Committee has asked Paul Simpson to install a new metal roof on the shelter house at Trussell Park. It will be painted in the spring. There has been a car parked on the square all week. Mayor Miller will investigate.

Streets – The citizen complaints about the stop sign at Brandon and North Streets have been reviewed. Red flags have been purchased to place on the signs. The county did not recommend using rumble strips because of the noise and it being next to the senior housing. Dollar General has agreed to pay \$1,500 to fix the strip of road by the store. The city will remove the blacktop and replace it with gravel.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to send Account #161 a thirty-day notice of tax lien letter. With the Veteran's Day holiday on Wednesday and city hall being closed, the city will not shut off the water for unpaid accounts until Thursday morning, November 12. Councilman Baty noted most water leaks have been found saving the city a considerable amount of money. Mitch Main will be unable to attend the water classes on November 12 and 13. An on-line course through Kirkwood will be checked into.

Sewer – Chris Sheldon reported the inflow is within 3,000 to 10,000 gallons of our water usage. Videoing of the sewer is finished and a break was found west of the old cemetery. Mitch Main dug it up and has ordered the parts to repair. Shaun Wubben, John Baty, and Jason Snow assisted Mitch and their help was appreciated very much. The city needs to order a Honda generator and good LED work lights, as well as protective gloves and face equipment. The ICAP safety grant could be used for these items. Chris reminded the council we cannot make changes to the system without authorization. No changes will be made when repairing the leak. The city will need to hire a contractor to make the repair since you have to have confined space training. Councilman Baty will contact McCann's. Mitch contacted the State and has established a good relationship with them. Videoing showed a couple more breaks in the sewer but nothing major and tree roots were found. Letters to residents where issues were found when smoking the sewers will be mailed later this week. A telephone conference call with French-Reneker and the DNR regarding the sewer project will be held Friday, November 13 at 1 PM. They requested two councilpersons be on the call. Ken Martin and Sheila Kirby volunteered.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. The cleanup of property at 409 South Henry is done. Property at 106/108 South William was discussed. A letter was sent to the Mayor and Council from the owner with a proposed schedule to complete the work. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin for the City to write an agreement for the owner to sign that says the property will be cleaned up by March 1, 2021, or the city will clean it up and charge the owner. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. TD Brown can chew up blacktop and concrete. Councilman Baty said Tim Pettibone has concrete they can crush and donate to the city. This would be good to use at the burn pile at the old saw mill. The dead tree at 404 West North Street was discussed. Property owner states the tree is not dead and has not taken it down. Council is not going to pursue any further. If neighboring property owner wishes to pursue, they can do so at their own expense. The city attorney has recommended two different letters be sent to the owners of 501 East Chariton to start legal action. Mayor Miller talked to the person burning insulation at 310 West North and burning has stopped. Property still needs a lot of cleanup.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill signed the City up for a small city work zone sign package program. Ten cities with a population under 10,000 will receive the package. Clerk Stogdill recommended transferring funds in the water checking account to the water savings account to stay in compliance with FDIC. Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to transfer \$20,000 from water checking to water savings. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. City Hall is closed for the Veteran's Day holiday on November 11. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council. Maintenance Supervisor Mitch Main was not in attendance to report. Council discussed how to pay full-time employees if quarantined for Covid-19. Council will review on a case by case basis, but agreed by consensus to pay full-time employees as if they are at work. Employees may be called while in quarantine.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported receiving an email complaining about a resident that does not get their garbage picked up and stores their garbage in a shed on their property attracting cats and rodents to the neighborhood. The resident was talked to and they agreed to arrange for garbage pickup.

Councilman Ehrle discussed the North Street culvert. The estimate received by the County Engineer was for \$22,000. Councilman Baty will contact Lathrop's to get an estimate. This expense will be reviewed for next year's budget.

Clerk Stogdill conducted the third reading of Ordinance #2020-03–Penalties. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Ordinance #2020-03-Penalties. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Clerk Stogdill conducted the third reading of Ordinance #2020-04–Tobacco. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Ordinance #2020-04-Tobacco. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Clerk Stogdill conducted the third reading of Ordinance #2020-05-Animal Control. Motion by Martin and seconded by Ehrle to approve and adopt Ordinance #2020-05-Animal Control. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle inquired about having council meetings live-streamed due to Covid-19. Council agreed it was a possibility and asked Gary to check into how it is done. Councilmen Martin and Baty discussed the grading of the north part of Hillcrest Cemetery. Councilman Ehrle said he had done some measurements and a map and will have Council review it. Councilman Ehrle also stated Hillcrest Cemetery needs more gravel on the roads and a low spot fixed. Councilman Baty discussed a track hoe owned by Rich Wilson that will need to be taken down our streets. It has road tracks and when turning a corner, it will scrape. Council agreed by consensus for Rich Wilson to use the streets to move his track hoe. Councilwoman Kirby inquired about a sign missing near 207 North East Street. A semitruck knocked it down when going around the corner. She will get more information about the sign. Councilman Baty shared a nice letter and an anonymous donation he received to help pay to replace a stop sign by Frontage Road. Council agreed by consensus to order the stop sign and thanked the donor.

Mayor Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 7:33 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer