

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 8, 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, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Paul Simpson, Jason Snow, Irene Brooks, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, and Stephen Pedrick 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 Baty to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the November 10, 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 Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to open the public hearing for amended budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. City Clerk Stogdill and Mayor Miller reported no comments or questions had been received at City Hall, either written or oral. Mayor Miller asked the public in attendance if they had any comments or questions and none were received. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to close the public hearing for amended budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution #17-2020 Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Amended Budget. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Comments from the public – Paul Simpson told the Council he has his CDL and could work part-time to push snow this winter if extra help is needed. Council agreed to keep him in mind, especially with the virus and flu season.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker discussed the project initiation meeting held with the DNR on November 13. The preliminary engineering report and SRF application are due March 1, 2021. The CDBG application is due July 1, 2021 and bid opening is Fall of 2021. Sewer videoing was completed on November 16. Stephen stated the overall condition was good and better than he had expected. Several manholes are asphalted over and need raised up so we can access and monitor them. Stephen reviewed the proposed lining project. We are slightly under the \$600K for a competitive application and stated we could add more video to the project or other repair work to get the cost up. More videoing could locate bigger problems in the system. Flows at branch manholes need reviewed when raining. Mitch Main stated there is rock that needs cleaned out and would like to have videos done of William Street. The Engineer's Opinion of Probable Costs for the proposed sanitary sewer improvement project Phase I was reviewed by Stephen Pedrick, as well as detailed maps from the sewer videoing. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to do more videoing with the amount left in the budget. Stephen Pedrick and Mitch Main are authorized to decide where to do the video work. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Robinson-Absent. Motion carried. The saw mill, school roof, and East North Street were also discussed.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson reported 19 calls for November. The Thanksgiving meal for the community had a great turnout. They are considering doing something on the 19th for Christmas. The department needs new books for Fire Fighter I training, which would cost approximately \$800. The books they currently have are outdated. At least 4 books are needed and an instructor's manual. Other fire departments are billing the insurance companies of homeowners and car owners when they go on a call. Moravia is checking into doing this for house fires and car wrecks. The asbestos report for the city's property on West Milwaukee has not been received yet.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. The Public Library Standards was received from the State Library of Iowa and is available for Council to review.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle noted there should be no animals allowed in our cemeteries. It is not a recreational park and is very unethical to allow them in the cemeteries.

Parks – The pole light in southwest corner of park on square is not working. Councilman Baty will check on it. Councilman Martin reported the north east gazebo has a sleigh and two Christmas trees in it and the icicle lights are not on. He wondered who put the decorations in the gazebo and stated they did not have authorization from the council to do so. Councilman Ehrle said the Betterment Committee put the decorations there as a good gesture for Christmas but no permission was given. The intent was not to upset anyone but to have pride in the community. They will remove the decorations if the Council does not want them there. More extension cords will be installed for the icicle lights. Councilman Martin stated it just needs to be approved by the Council first. Councilwoman Kirby gave all Council members a list of repairs that need to be done at the library and community building, stating the building has not had a lot of care for several years. Councilman Baty discussed putting the condenser on the roof because kids play on it. The furnace and changing of filters was discussed. A work order is done to change the filters at city hall and now also includes changing the filters at the community building. Councilman Kirby inquired if the building is checked on after it has been rented. Mayor Miller said he has started doing that because there was a problem with a recent rental not cleaning. Budget meetings will start in January and repairs need to be put on the budget, recognizing we cannot repair all of it at once and we need to prioritize. Jason Snow asked if the fire department could also be included on the checklists and maintenance and stated the fire department will make a list of things that need to be done. Councilman Ehrle said the fire department building is much newer than the library and community building. Mayor Miller said the big rock may be placed in the park this week.

Streets – Mitch Main reported the work on the street by Dollar General is finished. More gravel will be added as it is driven on and settles. Mayor Miller reported receiving several favorable comments from the public about the street. Chip and seal was discussed as a possibility to use on city streets in the future.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. City Clerk Stogdill reported sending approximately 60 delinquent letters every month. The list of delinquent accounts was longer this month due to the council meeting being on the 8th and the shut-off date on the 10th.

Sewer – Previously discussed with Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. The clean-up agreement with the owner of the demolished property on South William Street has not been signed and returned to the City. Councilman Baty will contact the owner prior to starting legal action. He will also discuss their property on North Henry Street that has sewage seeping into the yard. The nuisance property at 501 East Chariton has had some progress in being cleaned up but has a considerable amount left to do.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill gave each Council member copies of updated ordinances for their books at home. Stogdill reported working with Mitch Main to complete the order for the safety grant reimbursement from ICAP. Pre-planning has begun on the city's budget. The clerk has spent considerable time working on health insurance prospects for employees. A dispute will be filed with our credit card company for an erroneous charge from Econo Lodge. Clerk Stogdill reported the city is over the FDIC limit for the checking account balance and very close to the limit on the savings account balance. Clerk Stogdill recommended opening savings accounts at another bank in order to be in compliance with our resolution on account balances and to be covered under FDIC. Stogdill recommended Farmers Bank in Centerville. Council agreed and requested a resolution at the January meeting to add Farmers Bank as a financial institution for the city, adding that Iowa Trust will remain as our main bank. Clerk Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. Mitch Main thanked the Council for their understanding and working with him during his quarantine. Since being back to work, they have set a pit at the new office of Power Insurance, hung the Christmas lights, worked at the Depot to have one water stop instead of two, and repaired the street by Dollar General. Shaun Wubben hauled five loads of rock, saving money that would have been spent on having the rock trucked in. Mitch has been working with Stephen Pedrick on the sewer. He has the paint for the school cross walk and will try to get it painted on a warmer day. Mitch reported standing water that needs to be investigated at 506 South East Street. The Council and Mayor reported receiving good comments all over town about the city workers.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported a complaint about shooting a gun in town. When he investigated, he was unable to find anyone.

Health insurance for full-time employees was discussed. Clerk Stogdill is getting quotes from various insurance companies including a group through the Iowa League of Cities that pools small towns together. Clerk Stogdill showed the Council the section on the city budget that allows for taxation to provide employees with hospital/medical/prescription benefits, dental benefits, disability insurance benefits, life insurance benefits, long term care insurance benefits, and vision benefits. As soon as more quotes are received, a meeting will be held to discuss it further. Councilman Ehrle volunteered to assist with checking into various plans and getting more information.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Martin reported there is no sign coming from the south at the underpass on Brandon Street that warns of a narrow bridge. Councilman Ehrle reported the unauthorized burning of plastic, rubber, and garbage continues. If it happens again, Council advised him to call the sheriff and have them stop by his house first to see the ordinance for burning before they visit the violator. Councilman Baty thanked Mitch and Shaun for putting up the Christmas lights and thanked the Fire Department and other groups that assisted them for having the Thanksgiving dinner for the community. Clerk Stogdill recognized and thanked Shaun Wubben for the Christmas decorations he put at the entrance of City Hall, the community building, and in the planters around the square. The Moravia Community Betterment Neighbor Helping Neighbor 2020 Final Report was distributed to the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller inquired how much time the Council wants to give people to repair their sewers. Council agreed by consensus that if they are making an attempt to correct the situation, we will work with them. Incorrect information has been posted on social media and Mitch has sent private messages to individuals to give them correct information. Mayor Miller inquired what the Council wants to do about the councilperson who will not answer emails, texts, or attend council meetings. Council said attendance at meetings could be done via the telephone if there are concerns about the virus, and there is no reason to not answer emails and texts. As long as there is a quorum of the Council, city business can still be conducted.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer