

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem John Baty at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Pro Tem Baty, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Gary Ehrle, and Sheila Kirby. Mayor Roy Miller was absent from the meeting. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Paul Simpson, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, Russell Ferguson, Chris Sheldon, Sue Albertson, Pastor Christy Ehrle, and Stephen Pedrick were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Christy Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Baty welcomed the public.

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Martin to amend the agenda to add council vacancy due to George Bob Robinson's resignation. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Ehrle to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Ehrle to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried. The results of the asbestos inspection from Environmental Edge at the city's property at 305 West Milwaukee were reviewed. An estimate to remove the asbestos was discussed. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to hire Environmental Edge in Ottumwa to remove the asbestos at 305 West Milwaukee for \$835. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Sue Albertson asked the Council for approval to place a memorial bench in the park for her daughter, Angela. She is working with the Betterment Committee to place the bench. Council agreed by consensus to approve the bench but will want to approve the location of the bench before it is placed.

Mayor Pro Tem Baty stated the rules of council meetings. Meetings are open to the public, however, they are not an open forum. The public may speak during the three minutes allowed for comments from the public, if they are on the agenda, or if the Council asks them a question.

Comments from the public – Russell Ferguson stated he saw in the minutes from the last meeting that dogs are not allowed in the cemetery. He stated he takes his dog for walks in the cemetery and has for twenty years. He cleans up after his dog and he will continue to walk his dog in the cemetery. Councilman Ehrle said it was disrespectful to the people who are buried there. Later in the Council meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Baty said they would research more on rules regarding animals in the cemetery before a decision is made. A lot of cemeteries are pet friendly as long as you clean up after them.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to approve and accept the resignation of George Bob Robinson from the Moravia City Council effective January 7, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to fill the vacancy by appointment at the February 2021 regular meeting and to publish for the opening as required by law. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker addressed the Council regarding the sewer/lagoon project. In December, the Council talked about videoing 3,000 more feet of sewer lines, as that is the amount left in the budget. Mitch Main has opened several manholes and saw steady water movement. A map was reviewed with the Council of possible areas to video. It was recommended by Mitch and the Council agreed by consensus to video at Westview, Charles Street, and around the square, which was approximately 3,003 feet, keeping the city in budget. Videoing will be done in February. A flow meter was discussed. Pedrick stated they can be rented and the company sends a representative to set it up. Every time you move it, it has to be recalibrated, so renting three or four and not moving them would be preferred. Pathfinders needs the report from French-Reneker in order to complete their environmental report and timeline is tight. Clerk Stogdill requested budget numbers from Pedrick for the upcoming fiscal year. Pedrick will email the breakdown to the city, stating \$600,000 as the cost. Chris Sheldon reported running 60,000 to 70,000 gallons a day at the lagoon.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson reported seven calls in December. Total calls for the year 2020 were 101 EMS, 24 fire, and 11 car accidents, totaling 136 calls. Fire call response fees were discussed. It will not cost residents anything as it is covered under their insurance. With the cost of equipment continuing to rise, the department needs the income. Moulton and Centerville both have fire call fees. Council agreed to review a resolution for the fees at the regular meeting in February. Fireworks were discussed. The department will not be able to continue this tradition without financial help. Paul stated some communities add it to the water bills. Clerk Stogdill did not recommend adding it to the water bill as there is not room for another line on the postcard and she did not think most customers would agree to pay it. She suggested asking for pledges from the community and having the money deducted from their bank account. Various fundraising ideas were discussed. Fire Fighter I training will begin next month and six books are needed. Mayor Pro Tem Baty asked for the cost of the books stating the Moravia Union may be able to help pay part of the cost.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp discussed replacing Gary Ehrle on the Library Board. They were unable to find any males interested in filling the opening. The Library Board is asking for approval of Carol Cloyed to replace Gary Ehrle, and the renewal of the terms for Lois VanZante and Julie Dhority. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to approve Carol Cloyed, Lois VanZante, and Julie Dhority to the Moravia Library Board of Directors. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried. Ann reported the library has a new website. The web address is the same and still needs a few things added to it. The library is open and available to the public with masks required. Usage of the library is down since the corona virus outbreak.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle inquired if the City should continue to plow snow at the old cemetery since usage is so limited and the roads are narrow and hard to plow with the truck. There are stones on the edge of the road, making it difficult to blade. A skid loader was used to remove the snow after the last storm. Council agreed by consensus to continue to remove the snow with a skid loader, but that it is not a priority. Ehrle also discussed a proposed expansion of Hillcrest Cemetery. A map was reviewed that has a separate access road for the burn pile with trees and rocks to help hide the burn pile from the cemetery. Gary proposed only opening one section at a time of the expansion and having the option of a standard burial, flat head stones, and a cremation wall. Costs of approximately \$10,000 will be presented at budget workshops with a goal to complete the project in August. Rock for the expansion as well as the current roads was discussed.

Parks – Councilman Martin stated the Christmas lights around the gazebo need to be removed. Councilwoman Kirby has received one estimate for a new furnace/air conditioner at the community building/library. Bill Benjamin will be getting a second estimate from Paul Simpson. Mayor Pro Tem Baty requested they get three estimates. City staff is planning on taking down the Christmas lights on Wednesday, January 13.

Streets – Chip and seal was discussed.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Clerk Stogdill reported 58 delinquent accounts that were sent letters. Four waters were shut off for non-payment this month. Mitch Main reported water readings have been up since Christmas. City staff will read meters at the end of next week so will know if a leak is at a residence. The lagoon does not show as much of an increase as the water, so it is not going through the sewer. The leak could be in a field or cattle lot and we would not know.

Sewer – The drop at the man hole with the main break has been installed. Mayor Pro Tem Baty requested Chris Sheldon to start turning in his readings daily to Mitch Main.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. Stump property has until June 15 to comply. The Council discussed moving of junk vehicles from one property to another instead of getting rid of the vehicles. The trailer at 310 West North Street was discussed. Lose metal in yard has been blowing. City staff picked up some of it in the street. Julia Ewing will be contacted about picking up the metal and debris and told not to burn trash.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported the ICAP safety grant for \$1000 has been approved. Payment will be received in a few weeks. A generator would qualify for the grant for this year and Mitch will purchase in July under the new fiscal year expenses. Chariton Valley Electric gave a discount on utility bill this month, passing on a portion of their profit margins. The credit was for \$772.20 for the City. Thicker post cards have been purchased to print the utility bills on in hopes of reducing damage and tearing of the bills when mailed. Ordinance 92.09 requiring \$150 deposits from renters and homeowners was discussed. Currently, the ordinance states the deposit is returned when the resident moves and the account is in good standing. The clerk receives a lot of complaints about this when the resident purchases the home and has no plans to move. Council agreed to review the ordinance starting in February with the rule that the deposit will be returned in one year if the home is purchased and the water has not been shut off during that year for non-payment. If the water has been shut off, the time starts over. Clerk will prepare ordinance change and there will be three readings beginning in February. An email was sent to the Council to see if they wanted to vote for a representative on the Iowa Rural Water Association board. No members of the Council knew any of the candidates running and did not wish to place a vote. Work is in progress for tax preparation of 1099's and W-2's to take to H&R Block to prepare. Budget prep work is in progress. A decision must be made on the health insurance for full-time employees in order to know how much to budget for the cost. Income surveys for Pathfinders was discussed. At last count, we needed 20 more surveys completed and the city has received twelve more since then. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council. Mitch Main discussed a water leak that was repaired. Two manhole lids close to driveways were installed and rock hauled in. There have been two snow storms where snow removal was done. The orange truck blew a hydraulic hose. The cost to repair the truck was approximately \$550 plus their labor time to repair it. The skid loader needs new tires again. The tires only last one year at a cost of \$600. Better tires cost \$1000 but it is not known if they would wear better for the city's uses or not. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Baty to purchase the better tires for approximately \$1000. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Resident Complaints – None received.

The appointment of council committees was discussed. Council agreed by consensus to keep the committees the same and possibly change them when the new councilperson is appointed.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Ehrle to appoint Sharla Stogdill as the City Clerk/Treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

FDIC insurance for public funds was discussed and an email had been sent to the mayor and Council. The information received from Iowa Trust Bank stated since the town of Moravia's deposits are public funds, our entire balance is covered by the Iowa Sinking Fund. The Iowa Trust and Savings Bank Auditor tracks their public funds on a daily basis. They can take in public funds to the extent of their capital and after that, they are required to pledge with the State of Iowa. All public funds up to their capital limit are covered. If they exceed, they would do the pledging with the State Treasurer, but have never had to. This means that the city's deposits are covered regardless of the amount. Motion by Martin and seconded by Ehrle to approve Resolution #1-2021 designating Iowa Trust & Savings Bank as the official depository of the city with a maximum depository amount of \$500,000 total checking accounts and \$500,000 total savings accounts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to approve Resolution #2-2021 designating the Moravia Union as the official publication of public notices. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Dates for the city's budget workshop meetings were set for Thursday, January 21 and Thursday, January 28 at 4:30 PM.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the alcohol license for Fat Annie's. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Health insurance for full-time employees was discussed. Employees had been unable to reach the insurance representative by telephone to discuss personal doctors and prescriptions to confirm coverage and prices. Council requested this be added to the agenda of the first budget workshop meeting to discuss in further detail.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle discussed with the council sending Mitch Main to CDL school where they provide the truck. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Martin to send Mitch Main to CDL school. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried. Councilman Ehrle is checking on prices for a light for the fire department sign which has been received. Councilman Martin discussed a broken place on the east side of the road on Brandon Avenue just south of Dennis Gardner's driveway. This is not the time of year to repair it but will look at it when weather gets better and will also move signs. Mitch Main reported the stop sign by Dollar General has been replaced. Mayor Pro Tem Baty reported receiving weekly compliments on the job Mitch and Shaun are doing for the city.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller was absent from the meeting.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Martin to adjourn at 7:48 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ John Baty, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer