

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021**

A special meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem John Baty at 4:30 PM on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Pro Tem Baty, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Sheila Kirby, and Gary Ehrle. Mayor Roy Miller was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Paul Simpson, Renae Johanningmeier, Bill Benjamin, Marcia Benjamin, Gary Dhority, and Brad Scott were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Baty welcomed the public.

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

Comments from the public – Gary Dhority stated he did not have any comments but had a tape recorder and was recording the meeting. Bill and Marcia Benjamin discussed the partnership with the City and the Betterment Committee. The drainage ditch project was reviewed. Buried fiber optics and utilities will be a challenge. A quote from the County was reviewed and Mayor Pro Tem will consult with a contractor about the project. Concerns about closing the road were expressed. Approximate cost will be in the \$17,000 range. Paint for hydrants and other projects was discussed. Plans for raising memorial stones in the park was discussed. Materials for the drainage around the community building and library was reviewed with an anticipated cost of \$1,500. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve the partnership between the City of Moravia and the Moravia Betterment Committee with the understanding that final plans for projects must have approval by the City Council first. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye. Motion carried. Brad Scott came into the meeting later and inquired about the council vacancy and what needed to be done to apply for the opening. Council requests a written letter stating why you are interested in being on the Council and what qualifications you have. They also would like for applicants to attend the February 9 meeting to answer any questions they may have.

Renae Johanningmeier from Group Benefits, LTD, addressed the Council and employees regarding health insurance. Renae is the Employee Benefits Specialist in the Urbandale office, and is a broker for Power Insurance in Moravia. She stated it is very unusual to not have a group policy in today's world. Individual policies cost considerably more money. After talking with all three of the full-time employees and their needs, the best option for insurance is the Wellmark Enhanced Blue 2000 plan. Rates are based on zip codes and age only and are guaranteed for one year. It is a month-to-month contract and March 1 is the earliest effective date the city could put it in place. Employee contributions can be on a pre-tax basis. The coverage includes all pre-existing conditions. Deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums, prescription drug costs, and co-pays were all discussed. In other small city groups, it is common for the city to pay more for the employee's health insurance than they do for coverage on the spouse and children. She did not recommend paying 100% of the cost because that requires insuring all eligible employees whether they want to enroll or not. Renae has talked with the city employees individually regarding enrolling their children on Hawk-I (Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa) instead of the group plan and employees are willing to do that. This would be the best route for both the city and the employee and she highly recommended it. The maximum waiting period for new employees is the first of the month following 60 days of employment and most cities start coverage after 30 days. Dental, vision, life, short-term disability, and long-term disability were briefly discussed and could be available for the employee to pay at 100% if the city does not want to contribute at this time. Shaun Wubben discussed his current coverage and deductibles and questions from Mitch Main and Sharla Stogdill regarding coverages were answered. Clerk Stogdill gave the Council a break-down of the city costs, stating 42% of the premium can be taxed, 30% paid for through Water funds, and 28% through Sewer funds based on the previous fiscal year's wage break-down. Clerk Stogdill also reminded the Council that coverage from March through June is not budgeted or taxed. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Kirby to pay 90% of full-time regular employees' premium and 80% of the premium for their spouse and children for health insurance effective March 1, 2021, and to cover new hires who are full-time regular employees on the first of the month after a thirty (30) day waiting period. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed a first draft of the city budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 with the council. Each fund was discussed and line by line items with historical data was reviewed. A second budget workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, at 4:30 PM where changes and additions to the budget will be reviewed before finalization.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle apologized to the Council for the cemetery issue at the last council meeting. He stated he talked with the resident and they worked it out. Mitch Main discussed the need to put wood over the windows of the Moffatt house before burning it. Mayor Pro Tem Baty has some wood that can be used.

Mayor Info and Discussion Items – None

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:40 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ John Baty, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer