

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Gary Ehrle, and John Baty. Councilwoman Sheila Kirby was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Paul Simpson, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, Chris Sheldon, Larry Smith, Darcy Weilbrenner-Sheldon, Aaron Kelley, Ronald Deal, and Ann Repp were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 regular meeting, January 21, 2021 special meeting, and January 28, 2021 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – Darcy Weilbrenner-Sheldon inquired when city hall will be open to the public. The Council stated they are leaving it up to the Mayor and Clerk to decide when it is safe and they feel comfortable opening up with the pandemic.

Cody Cline was on the agenda to discuss a new business in Moravia but he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Four residents applied for the council vacancy: Darcy Weilbrenner-Sheldon, Larry Smith, Ron Deal, and Aaron Kelley. The Council asked questions regarding the applicants' qualifications and reasons for applying for the vacancy. Applicants were given the opportunity to ask the Council questions. The Council encouraged the three who are not appointed to put their names on the ballot at the election this fall. Voting was as follows: Baty – Darcy Weilbrenner-Sheldon, Martin – Ron Deal, Ehrle – Ron Deal. Motion by Martin and seconded by Ehrle to appoint Ron Deal to the Moravia City Council. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve Resolution #5-2021 to appoint Ronald Deal to the Moravia City Council. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried. Clerk Stogdill swore in Ronald Deal. Mayor Miller appointed Ron Deal to Streets and Water Committees.

Motion by Ehrle & seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #3-2021 – Fire Call and Wreck Response Fees. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried. The Fire Department will do the billing and the money will be received by the City Clerk.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson reported ten medical calls in January. The fire department is applying for a grant for \$13,800 for bunker gear. Fourteen sets of gear are needed (coats and pants) but six sets would meet their requirements for now. Paul inquired if the grant only pays for half if the LOST money could be used next year to pay for the other half. Council agreed by consensus. Paul discussed Lexipol Fire Rescue Academy. More information will be forthcoming. Fireworks will be discussed with the department. Mayor Miller had a letter stating the asbestos at the city's property at 305 Milwaukee has been removed. Chief Simpson will send paperwork to the DNR to get approval to burn it.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported the library is working on accreditation for Tier 3 status. They are sorting out old books so will have a book sale. No library board meeting was held this month due to the snow.

Cemetery – The roads at the cemetery are being cleared well by city staff and clearing off for burials has been noticed and appreciated.

Parks – Nothing to report.

Streets – Mitch Main reported repairing a few potholes. The pothole patch was purchased at Menards, saving a considerable amount of money. The City needs sand and hopes to purchase it from the County. We are still using last year's sand but starting to run low.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Shut offs will be done for non-payment on Wednesday, February 10. Water readings are down since the leak has been found.

Sewer – Major problems at the lift station were reported by Councilman Baty and Mitch Main. Price quotes for repairs will be reviewed when received. Mitch is monitoring the lift station daily and nightly. The pumps at the lagoon were also discussed. Sewer videoing at West View is not done yet. Videoing showed the manhole structure on William Street seeping a lot of water and it is full of mud. There is water around the manhole at South Henry and Charles and the sewer main is collapsing ten feet south of there.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. The March 1 deadline for cleaning up the property on South William Street is quickly approaching. If not cleaned up by the deadline, the city attorney will be contacted.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reminded the Council of the first public hearing for the budget on Tuesday, February 16 at 4:30 PM. Iowa Trust Bank requested permission to use the park on the square and to block off South Henry Street for the Easter Egg Hunt if they decided to have it this year. Council agreed by consensus. A repairman will be at City Hall on Wednesday to look at the printer. Work on the budget has been ongoing and is almost completed. Attempts to get a fuel contract with Agriland to lock in fuel prices have been made and awaiting their response. Financial reports were reviewed including the fire department's budget with the unexpected expense of vehicle repair. The City has been approved for the Community Development Block Grant for sewer upgrades. Eighty-two percent of the income surveys were received and seventy-seven percent of those were below income level requirements to be eligible. Mitch Main reported receiving a 911 call at 11:00 PM about a water leak. The resident was concerned about their sump pump running, but there was no leak. 911 calls should be for emergencies only. Mitch asked for guidance from the Council for pushing snow on evenings and weekends. Council agreed that Mitch was doing a good job deciding when to plow, using a recommendation of one to two inches of snow, but it also depends on if the wind is blowing and if it is a heavy or light snow. Mitch stated Shaun Wubben has completed his ninety-day probationary period.

Resident Complaints – None.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve Resolution #4-2021 – Application for Tax Exemption for Scott and Julie Cossolotto at 205 North William Street in Moravia. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported RASWC will begin parking the recycling trailer at City Hall instead of being in town for only two hours once a month with an employee on duty. Beginning on March 11, the trailer will be parked on William Street across from City Hall on the second Thursday of every month (same day as before) from 8 AM to 3:30 PM. Residents will unload their own recycling products and place them in the trailer as marked. Residents are asked to wait until the trailer is in town and to not unload their recycling materials in front of city hall. A notice will be put in the newspaper.

The first reading of Ordinance #2021-01 – Customer Deposits was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2021-01 – Customer Deposits. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance #2021-02 – Sewer Rates was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2021-02 – Sewer Rates. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle discussed a newly formed Iowa Mayor's Association. Consensus by the Council was received for Mayor Miller to join the group. Councilman Baty has received more compliments about the city employees clearing snow and being a good outreach for the community. He also thanked the City Clerk for her work in improving the finances of the city. Councilman Ehrle thanked the City Clerk for her work on the budget.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller stated he was glad to be back and thanked everyone for keeping the city running while he was absent. The date for the appeal for Jason Snow's unemployment has been received and was reviewed.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to adjourn at 7:19 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer