

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

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Sheila Kirby, Gary Ehrle, Ron Deal, and John Baty. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Paul Simpson, Marcia Benjamin, Chris Sheldon, Darcy Weillbrenner-Sheldon, Irene Brooks, Danny Moore, Pastor Christy Ehrle, Stephen Pedrick, Ron Repp, 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-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting and February 16, 2021 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to open the budget hearing at 5:35 PM. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. No questions or comments had been received at City Hall regarding the budget. Clerk Stogdill reviewed the state budget form with Council, noting the total expenditures and revenues. No comments or questions were received from the public. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to close the budget hearing at 5:37 PM. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution #8-2021 – City of Moravia's Budget and Certification of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Comments from the public – Danny Moore inquired what needed to be done in order to get water and sewer at his trailer on West Charles Street. The Council gave him a copy of the code of ordinances that states the requirements for trailers. Darcy Weillbrenner-Sheldon inquired when City Hall was going to be open to the public. Clerk Stogdill stated there had not been one single person that had not been taken care of during the pandemic. If someone needed to come inside city hall, they were allowed to. Council stated they have left the opening of City Hall up to the Mayor and City Clerk. Clerk Stogdill inquired if plexiglass could be installed on the half door in the clerk's office. Council agreed that Mitch and Shaun could install plexiglass or whatever is needed for safety. Darcy also inquired if council meetings could be live-streamed on Facebook on the Moravia Happenings page and if council meeting agendas could be posted on the Moravia Happenings Facebook page. Council agreed by consensus to have the meetings livestreamed on the Moravia Happenings Facebook page but suggested a microphone be used so you could hear what was being said and she would need to find someone to do it. Permission was also given to post agendas on the Moravia Happenings page. She can access the agenda from the Moravia Union, or it is posted on the door of city hall and on the city's website. Darcy's last question was how many council seats would be up for election in November. After discussion, it was determined there would be four seats open (Baty, Martin, Deal, and Ehrle).

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker discussed the sewer/lagoon project. The signed invoice from J Leu Contracting was reviewed and signed by Mayor Miller. Results of the latest video were discussed and handouts reviewed by the Council. Stephen and Mitch Main will prioritize the repairs and look at cost estimates, noting several repairs are very deep or underneath the streets. The March 1 deadline has been delayed to June 1 due to the weather. Issues at the school regarding water draining into the sewer were discussed. Mitch inquired if Stephen, Chris, and he should attend the school board meeting on March 10. Stephen wants to look at the school building in the daylight first. Affidavit Operator Chris Sheldon passed out copies of the influent meter readings at the lagoon in February and March, stating the inflow is getting higher. Mitch pointed out there was a large amount of snow this winter and the snow is melting so there is a lot of ground water which would account for higher inflow. Councilman Baty stated there is a lot of water running out of Westview right now too. Mitch said we are all aware there is a problem which is why we are doing the lagoon project, reiterating that it has been a problem for quite some time. We have budgeted for the project in the 2022 budget and are eligible for a CDBG grant to help with the expenses. Chris Sheldon stated raw sewage is being pushed to Lake Sundown and that there is toilet paper in the creek, however, no evidence was given to the Council to substantiate his claim. He has talked to the DNR since there is a housing development at Sundown. He had called Centerville and they have 5500 people and they are getting 700,000 gallons per day of outflow and Moravia is at 650,000 to 680,000 gallons. Shawn Wubben stated there was a hose located by the eye of the flow meter that had been moved. When Mitch and he moved it back to where it was supposed to be, it changed the readings by 15 gallons per minute, which is over 20,000 gallons per day. Chris said he is more concerned about the numbers on the outflow than the numbers coming in. When Shawn asked Chris what we need to do about the problem, Chris said he did not know, he just wanted to make sure Council knew about the issues. Councilwoman Kirby said they are aware of the issues and we are taking steps to fix the problems. Mitch stated on the videos out at Westview you could see sump pumps were running. Councilman Baty said we will have to go door-to-door to houses with sump pumps going into the sewer. Mayor Miller requested Mitch Main and Chris Sheldon work closer together. He wants Mitch to go with Chris when he is getting the readings and for Chris to give Mitch the daily records. Chris stated he was sending the monthly reports to the city, but Mayor Miller stated he wanted Mitch to be given the daily numbers and to go with him to do the readings. Chris agreed to do so.

Mayor Miller stated a request had been received at City Hall for Brock Sheldon to do community service at the City. Darcy Weillbrenner-Sheldon stated he had completed his community service somewhere else.

Moravia Betterment Committee – Marcia Benjamin reported the interpretive panel design had been completed and sent in. The By-Way Committee has a grant for the stand for the sign. The Council had previously approved the interpretive panel and Marcia requested the Council's permission to place the sign at the northwest corner of the square in the park. Council agreed by consensus.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Paul Simpson reported on firemen taking the Fire Fighter Attack class. The department had ten calls in February (eight medical, one structure fire, and one fire alarm). Veronica Simpson has received her EMT certification. The date for the house burning on Milwaukee Street has not been set yet. There is also a house by Sundown they are going to burn. Mitch Main inquired if the pile by the house on Milwaukee needs to be pushed closer to the house before they burn it and Paul said to push it in as it burns. Two ash trees on the property are gone.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported the new Library Board President is Chris McDanel. They are weeding out old books and will have a book sale. Councilwoman Kirby inquired if books could be given to the Des Moines Planned Parenthood book sale and Ann said they would have to buy them; the library is not allowed to give books away. Mitch converted the light in the reference room at the library to LED.

Cemetery – Brush pile is growing.

Parks – Lights are replaced.

Streets – Councilman Baty noted cracks in streets have opened up more and using the tar machine in early fall was discussed. Mitch and Shaun have completed more work on potholes. Shaun has started cleaning up rock from pushing snow. Mitch is going to check on prices for an attachment for weed eaters that can clean up rock.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Shut offs for non-payment will be done on Wednesday, March 10. Council agreed by consensus to send a thirty-day notice letter of tax lien to Account 161 for \$112.76. Councilman Baty inquired if water bills could be emailed instead of mailed at the post office. Some customers are not receiving their bills and mail service is slow. Clerk Stogdill will inquire with ClerkBooks personnel on the capability of the system to email bills.

Sewer – Lagoon project was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. Council noted the deadline for cleaning up the property on South William Street was March 1 but progress is being made on the cleanup of the property, considering the contractor had two breakdowns.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reminded the Council that Thursday, March 11 will be the first time the recycle trailer is parked in Moravia instead of being in town for two hours. The trailer will be parked across the street from City Hall. Residents will be responsible for sorting their recycling materials and loading them in the trailer themselves. The fuel contracts with Agriland have been signed. Councilman Deal is researching regulations and costs of installing a fuel tank. The City received the property insurance renewal from Power Insurance. Councilman Deal will be responsible for the accuracy of the insurance renewal, with city employees and the fire chief also reviewing the policy for accuracy. Temporary health insurance cards have been received and the clerk has signed the city up for automatic payments of the premium from the city's checking account. Sharla is working with ClerkBooks to enter the financial data for health insurance premiums and deductions accurately. Sharla has been in contact with Windstream regarding an error found on the city's telephone/internet bill. Windstream has been charging the city taxes, so past tax payments will be credited to our bill and future billings corrected. The printer at city hall has been repaired. Financial reports were reviewed including the fire department being over budget on equipment expenses. Mitch Main spoke with the County about maintenance of Old Highway 5. Old Hwy 5 South is a farm to market road and the county blades and salts it. A 28E Agreement with the County was discussed to ensure snow removal and salt on old Hwy 5 North is done and to designate who pays for signs, patching, and striping. The County will be resurfacing the Unionville highway this year. It is not in our budget now but we may consider in the future when they do re-surfacing to pay them to come into the city limits. Mitch noted the city budgeted for the next fiscal year for McCann to finish installing water pits. Two pits at Sunset Village need done and one more at Parkview. Council requested Mitch call and get on their schedule for the summer, noting payment would be made after June 30. The duplex on West Chariton Street needs to have two separate meters. Council gave permission for Mitch to contact the resident to get permission to enter the residence and advised him to wear a mask while inside the residence. Mitch reported completing the on-line water classes. Testing for his water license will also be done on-line and he is waiting to be scheduled. Mitch's plan is to complete the water license first and then do the CDL class. Sewer classes are still scheduled for May and Mitch will be attending. Councilman Baty requested Mitch and Shaun start ditching. North Street through town needs ditched and work done on shoulders. Mitch's laptop computer stopped working. Aaron Kelly will look at it to see if it can be repaired. Quotes for repairs at the lift station still have not been received from all of the companies.

Resident Complaints – The mayor received text messages from a resident with a complaint and Council was aware of the texts. The Mayor has responded to the resident.

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

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

Employee handbook revisions were presented by Clerk Stogdill. Health insurance eligibility and costs was added to section 4.11.1 of the handbook. Corrections of the title of Maintenance Supervisor changed from Administrative Supervisor were made and guidelines for call-in pay was added to Section 4.13. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution #9-2021 – Employee Handbook Revisions. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

After discussion regarding the rules for tax exemption, a motion was made by Baty and seconded by Deal to approve and adopt Resolution #10-2021 – Application for Tax Exemption-Aaron Kelly at 201 South Brandon. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted. Clerk Stogdill will email the Moravia Urban Revitalization Plan to all Council members for their review.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty reported that Tim Pettibone inquired about closing the alley by property he purchased. Baty will investigate doing a Quit Claim Deed instead of going through the City Attorney in order to lower the expense. Tim owns the property on both sides of the alley. For the alley where there is another owner on the other side, the other owner will need to be contacted to see if they agree with closing the alley. The sewer at 106 South John is backing up. The owner had been notified and had agreed to get it repaired. The cap is on but sewer is still coming up around the cap. Mitch and Shaun will check on it and if it has not been repaired, a one call will be placed and the city will repair it at the owner's expense. Councilman Baty thanked Irene Brooks for bringing refreshments to the meeting. Councilman Ehrle inquired if it would be beneficial to the city to pay the city attorney a retainer fee as opposed to paying case by case. More details will be looked into.

Mayor Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 7:27 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer