

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 13, 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, Marcia Benjamin, Chris Sheldon, Darcy Weillbrenner-Sheldon, Stephen Pedrick, and Teresa Bighler 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 Ehrle to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 regular 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 Baty to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – Teresa Bighler discussed a medical facility that is being considered for Moravia. A meeting was held last week with the Moravia Betterment Committee, Mercy One in Centerville, and Monroe County Hospital in Albion. The two hospitals will work together to do a study and will give the Council the outcome to see if we should move forward. They will ask residents what they would like to see offered, such as a full-time doctor, chiropractor, or mental health counseling. A building would need to be provided by the City. Darcy Weillbrenner-Sheldon inquired when city hall will be open to the public. Mayor Miller stated he is keeping track of COVID rates in the state and they keep going up. He also wants any staff that wishes to be vaccinated to be fully vaccinated before we re-open. Roy reiterated that every customer is getting served. Darcy inquired how new people could contact the city and the Mayor stated telephone numbers, including his personal cell phone number, are posted on the front door of city hall.

Labekka Hiatt was on the agenda to discuss a block party but was absent from the meeting.

Sludge Judging and Testing – Mitch Main contacted four companies for bids for sludge judging and testing but bids were only received from two. Bids from Nutri-ject Systems and Waggoner Solutions were reviewed. Jody Ballanger has expressed interest in having it spread on his land. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to accept the bid from Waggoner Solutions for \$5,250. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker discussed the sewer/lagoon project. Dye tests were done at the school and the perimeter of the school was walked looking at drainage as well as the courtyard area. Another manhole has been found and the school was looked at again during the rain. Council had agreed to videoing being done at the school of less than 1000 feet to stay within the budget. Stephen passed out new maps to Council showing defects in our sewer system. Grouting joints of the sewer main is cheaper than lining and can be done in some places, however grouting is a 20 to 25-year fix versus lining being a 50-year fix. Stephen presented the Council with three scenarios of costs and resident rates to pay for the costs. We have a June 1 deadline with the State Revolving Fund to get on the Intended Use Plan. The CDBG grant application is due October 1. Construction would begin in 2022. Mitch Main discussed the issues with residents' sump pumps and cleanouts. Letters were sent in November but several of the issues have not been taken care of. New letters will be issued giving residents 30 days to fix cleanout issues and 60 days to complete other issues. If repairs are not made, the city will make the repairs and charge the homeowner. Problems at the lift station began the first week of February and the city just received bids. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to accept the bid from Jetco for \$13,756 to upgrade the lift station. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – The department reported twelve calls in March. Councilwoman Kirby reported the house at 305 West Milwaukee has been burnt by the Fire Department. Final cleanup will take place after it is done smoldering and cooled down.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. No representatives from the Library were in attendance. A library board meeting was not held this month due to no quorum in attendance.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle reported we are in the beginning stages of developing the north side of Hillcrest. Flags are in place where the new road will go. Mitch Main stated the city has tubing and will cut sod back and use millings with rock cap on the new road. Fencing was discussed.

Parks – Parks have been mowed. Councilwoman Kirby reported there will be a work day with school students on May 5 and projects include planting in front of the stage and raising memorial stones to ground level. Councilman Martin volunteered to help. If anyone else wants to help, contact Sheila.

Streets – Councilmen Ehrle and Deal are being pro-active by taking steps toward future plans for street repairs. They have marked bad places on a map and will be prioritizing the repairs. It was noted that four-inch water lines would need to be replaced if serious street work needs done. Councilman Deal is working on writing a 28E agreement to take to the Appanoose County Engineer. Councilman Baty noted the street at the railroad is deteriorating.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. One shut off for non-payment was done. Council agreed by consensus to send a thirty-day notice letter of tax lien to Account 1770 for \$128.86. Clerk Stogdill reported a rate increase from Rathbun Rural Water of 15 cents per 1000 gallons. Mitch Main passed the water license test.

Sewer – Lagoon project was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mitch Main is enrolled in sewer classes the last two weeks in May.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. The property at 305 West Milwaukee has been burned and final cleanup will be done after cooled down. Council reviewed the expenditures the City has had on the property and needs to decide if we are putting it up for bid. Councilman Baty reported property on North Henry needs to remove railroad ties on city right-of-way. A truck is also being repaired in the street by the property and resident lays underneath it with their feet out in the road. City Hall will contact resident. Letters were sent in August to residents with junk vehicles that needed to be removed. More forceful letters need sent to remove the junk vehicles or legal action will be taken. Junk vehicles at 402 North East Street need removed. The owner of property at 504 West North needs to be sent a letter to start the abatement process.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reported 29 customers have signed up to have invoices emailed instead of mailed. The clerk encouraged all Council members to sign up. Sharla is checking into offering debit card and automatic payments for water/sewer invoices. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council. Mitch Main inquired if Council will allow four ten-hour work days this summer. Councilman Ehrle expressed concern with both Mitch and Shaun being gone on the same day. Pros and cons for both were discussed and a decision will be made at the May regular meeting. Mitch reported receiving several complaints about the stop sign they put up by Dollar General and the stop sign on the square that was damaged and repaired being gone for two days.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported a complaint was received about dogs, goats, and chickens being in a resident's yard. A message was left for the owner of the animals and the problem was taken care of. A complaint about a neighbor's tree was received. The property owner with the tree was contacted but no return telephone call was received from them. The mayor told the resident they can cut any limbs that are hanging in their yard. The tree is not on city property so there is nothing the city can do. An inquiry was made about what happened to the siren at West View. Councilman Baty said when Agriland re-did their buildings, they took down the tower that held the siren. County was going to get a local siren but that has not happened.

Mitch Main inquired about rock on Pearl Street. He will be using the street to access his property and inquired if it was the city's responsibility to rock the street or his responsibility. Council agreed by consensus that it is the city's responsibility and gave permission to Mitch to rock the street.

The third reading of Ordinance #2021-01 – Customer Deposits was read by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Ordinance #2021-01 – Customer Deposits. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. The clerk was authorized by the Council to reimburse deposits for affected customers.

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

Councilman Ehrle requested volunteers for an Ordinance Committee to review and update current ordinances to bring to the Council for approval. No volunteers were received, so Councilman Ehrle will be the only one working on the project.

The need for part-time seasonal employees was discussed. Council agreed by consensus to hire two people and a valid driver's license is required for the job. The pay for these positions was increased to \$11 per hour. Advertising will be placed in the Moravia Union and sent to the high school to post.

A request for the use of the community building as a Red Cross emergency shelter was discussed. Council noted the Nazarene Church is already a designated emergency shelter. An inquiry will be made if they want the community building as a backup.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty inquired about the status of a fire hydrant near the school. Mitch Main checked it and no issues were found. Councilman Baty discussed Tim Pettibone's request to close the service alley between his properties. There are no utilities located there. A quit claim deed would need to be done. Councilman Deal has completed his review of the city's property insurance policy and has given Power Insurance the changes needed. Ron noted the placement of a stop sign by Dollar General was his idea so if there are questions or complaints, he would talk to the resident. Councilman Martin reported on a camper trailer on Brandon Street and wondered if someone was living in it.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller reported his email was hacked. He has changed his password. The possibility of special council meetings for the lagoon was discussed, noting after the decisions that had been made at this meeting, we are currently caught up.

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

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer