

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 8, 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, Tina Grimes, Richard Cloyed, Marcia Benjamin, Jackie Richardson, Margaret Richardson, Charlene Elliott, Pastor Christy Ehrle, Cherie Doud, Dennis Doud, Bridget Medina, Paige Doud, Ron Wheeler, Doug Doud, and Jamie Bills were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Christy Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. Noting it was not a correction to the minutes, Councilman Baty stated at the May meeting it was said by Nick Main that there are junk cars two properties to the west of Robinson's and he was talking about him on one of them. Baty said they have a van they have taken out of rotation but it is licensed and is not a junk vehicle.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal 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 – Dennis Doud spoke about receiving an anonymous letter about the people living at CD's and it is all untrue and cannot be proven. The letter was also sent to the mayor, city hall, city council members, Betterment Committee, and the Moravia Union. Dennis stated there is fine people with jobs living under his roof. There is a lot of fast and noisy traffic, but it does not come from his people. Without CD's, a lot of these people would be homeless. He helps to set them on the right track and encouraged anyone to check with the sheriff about drug usage. Several people who have been helped by Dennis and Cherie Doud spoke about the help they have received and described Dennis as a man of integrity. It is believed that whoever wrote the letter is asking for the Council to take action. In their letter they stated they would remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation. Dennis and his supporters believe the real reason is because they are cowards and know they can be sued for defamation of character. Mayor Miller reiterated that the letter did not come from the city council and that we received the email from an anonymous person. Mayor Miller thanked everyone for coming and stated his door is always open if anyone wants to talk to him. Richard Cloyed and Tina Grimes discussed the letter Richard received from the City regarding clean-up of his property and removal of junk vehicles. Councilman Baty stated they are willing to work with anyone who is making progress. Mayor Miller stated the city has to get properties cleaned up and would prefer the owners do it on their own instead of spending the taxpayers' money to pay for legal fees to clean up properties. Councilwoman Kirby reiterated that several letters were sent to encourage homeowners to clean up their properties on their own.

Sewer/Lagoon Project – Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker did not attend the meeting as there was nothing new to report from last month. The report approved by the Council in May has been sent to the DNR.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – The department reported eighteen calls in May (1 grass fire, 1 structure fire, 15 medical calls and 1 search and rescue). Councilman Baty pointed out the dedication of the department members stating they were called out three times on Memorial Day. The City Council thanks them and appreciates them. The hog raffle tickets are selling very well. The fire department had one worker's comp injury reported.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to accept and approve the resignation of Chris McDanel from the Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin complimented city employees on mowing, trimming, and washing the stones at the cemetery for Memorial Day. It was noted the Fire Department helped with the washing of stones and the Council greatly appreciated it. Flowers need to be picked up by June 15. Councilman Baty stated there has been some questionable activity at both cemeteries. Mitch Main is researching trail cameras that are affordable and can be easily moved to different locations. Councilman Ehrle reported making progress with the road in the new section. Mitch contacted Rich Wilson to do the first cutting of hay.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby noted bricks are down and river rock will be placed at the park to cut down on trimming. More mulch will be placed around trees. Councilman Baty has river rock he can donate for the city's use.

Streets – Councilman Ehrle wrote a bid to be published for road repairs. Council agreed by consensus to publish the bid as well as mail to contractors. Mitch reported purchasing cold patch and starting to fill pot holes. Flags have been placed on stop signs at the intersection and it has helped with getting drivers to stop. The mayor and council members have talked to residents about mowing and trimming and have asked people to stop blowing grass into the streets.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to file a tax lien on Account 161 for \$158.40. Remaining water pits to be installed were discussed. Mitch reported flushing fire hydrants last week. One hydrant needs to be replaced, which will be done in June, and two others have issues.

Sewer – Mitch attended wastewater classes in Cedar Rapids for four days. Letters have been sent for the second time to residents that have sewer issues found when smoking the sewer. Camera work has been completed on sewers at the school with two defects found. Mitch proposed dividing the town in sections and working on sump pump issues. The numbers at the lagoon are very good with the dry weather. Duck weed on pond #3 needs removed.

Nuisance Properties were reviewed. Colton Walton's vehicle has been removed.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reminded the Council that City Hall will be closed on July 5 for the Independence Day holiday. When the holiday is on a Sunday, employees are given Monday as a holiday. Due to the clerk's vacation, it was requested to move the July council meeting from July 13 to July 20. Council agreed by consensus. Several calls are received each month at city hall from customers who do not receive their water bill. They are encouraged to sign up for their invoices to be e-mailed instead of mailed. Financial reports were reviewed. Expenses in May were higher than normal due to the sewer loan payment of \$28,280.17. We are remaining under budget for the fiscal year with two payrolls left in June. The American Rescue Fund Act funds were not received in May as expected. After inquiring with the Iowa League of Cities, funding for non-entitlement cities (cities with population less than 50,000) will be sent to the state and the state will set up a system to distribute the funds. Currently, Iowa is not set up to do that yet.

Ordinance Updates – None.

Resident Complaints – None.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the alcohol license for Dollar General Store #20737. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

The LOSST funding allocation for the Appanoose County Law Center was discussed at length. Councilman Ehrle shared more information he had received with the Council. The ten percent requested contribution is a suggestion, not mandatory. Two towns in Appanoose County are not going to contribute anything and two towns are contributing ten percent. The current LOSST funds in Moravia are distributed equally between the Fire Department and Street Department and the Council did not feel either department could withstand a reduction in income. The question was asked if we could give a set amount versus a percentage, since we never know from year to year how much we will receive in LOSST funds and this would make it easier to budget. Councilman Ehrle will find out about contributing a set amount. After agreeing there is not a good answer, two motions were put on the floor. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Deal to approve Resolution #11-2021 giving the Law Center 8 (eight) percent, Street Fund 46 (forty-six) percent, and Fire Fund 46 (forty-six) percent. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Nay, Baty-Nay, Kirby-Nay, Deal-Aye. Motion failed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve Resolution #11-2021 giving the Law Center 8 (eight) percent, Fire Fund 50 (fifty) percent, and Street Fund 42 (forty-two) percent. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Nay. Resolution approved.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #12-2021 – Wage Increases. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to approve Resolution #13-2021 – Hazard Mitigation. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve Resolution #14-2021 authorizing the sale of real estate by public bid and setting time and place of public hearing for the Conveyance of Real Property, changing the date to July 20, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved.

Council reviewed and approved by consensus the Real Estate Purchase Agreement written by the City Attorney's office.

Council reviewed and approved by consensus the Public Hearing Notice for Sale of Real Estate written by the City Attorney's office.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty expressed his appreciation to all city employees for the good job they are doing. Councilwoman Kirby inquired if anyone could attend the housing meeting at Honey Creek Resort on Friday, June 11. Ron Deal will check his schedule and let city hall know if he can attend.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller said a lot of residents have been slow about mowing and trimming their grass due to the weather and several are blowing the grass into the streets. Roy has called residents to urge them to mow or the city will do it and charge accordingly.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer