

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Sheila Kirby, Gary Ehrle, Ron Deal, and John Baty. Councilperson Ken Martin was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, Stephen Pedrick, Chris Sheldon, Russell Ferguson, Richard Albertson, Pastor Christy Ehrle, Margaret Richardson, Carol Lambert, and Ann Repp 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 Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – Margaret Richardson said the house at 108 West North Street is being fixed up by her and Carol Lambert. A tax abatement application was requested.

Sewer/Lagoon Project – Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker updated the council on the lagoon project. The proposed sewer collection design and system improvement book was given to Council and Mitch to review. Stephen will meet with Councilpersons Baty and Kirby, along with Mitch Main and Chris Sheldon on Monday, September 27 at 4 PM to discuss prior to submitting the information for approval. Pedrick noted the environmental review is completed.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson was absent. The department reported eight calls in August. The fire department filled one pool this summer and money has not been collected.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Library Director Ann Repp reported they have been busier than normal this month. Several handicapped visitors were at the library and had difficulties with the ramp and opening the door. Some were using walkers and one was in a wheelchair. Mayor Miller had quotes for prices to install a handicap ramp at the August meeting. Bill Benjamin drew up a plan for a ramp and had an estimate of the cost to build it. Councilman Ehrle stated there needs to be a way to generate money for the library. Ann said she had an alumni list and the Friends of the Library fundraisers. The next Friends of the Library meeting is on Monday, September 20 at 3 PM. Mayor Miller and Councilwoman Kirby will attend.

Cemetery – Nothing to report.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby discussed service dogs in the community building. Fall Festival Committee will be enforcing not allowing motorized vehicles in the park with the exception of being allowed for handicapped individuals. Discussion on the high rates of speed ATV's travel and the possibility of registering and licensing those types of motorized vehicles was discussed. Ordinances will be investigated with Iowa League of Cities and Iowa Codification.

Streets – Councilman Ehrle stated the cost to seal coat the street through town would be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 plus an extra \$300-\$400 for center stripe. Stop signs at William and North Street intersection have been approved by the county engineer and Sheriff Anderson. There have been a few complaints but the council has to get the traffic slowed down coming through town. Speed limits are not followed. Councilman Deal had a draft 28E agreement with the county for roads. Council will review the draft and will be put on the October meeting agenda. Funding for roads was discussed.

Water – Delinquent accounts and water shut-offs for non-payment were reviewed. Mayor Miller reported a complaint received from a resident about high usage on their bill. The city checked their meter and it was not moving but will do a daily monitor of usage. The mayor explained to the resident about leaky stools and faucets but the resident said they were going to seek legal counsel.

Sewer – Nothing to report.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. The owners of junk vehicles that have not complied with the city's request will now be turned over to the city attorney.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the city and made recommendations to transfer money from checking to savings accounts. Since the money is within the same fund, it does not have to be budgeted and can be transferred by motion of the council. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to transfer \$25,000 from Fire Department checking to Fire Department savings. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Deal and seconded by Kirby to transfer \$25,000 from Road Use checking to Road Use savings. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion

carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to transfer \$50,000 from Water checking to Water savings. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried. The city has received the first half of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. \$47,389.53 was direct deposited on September 1, 2021. A flammable liquid storage cabinet was purchased for \$1,408 and the ICAP grant for \$1,000 has been applied for to cover most of the purchase price. The cabinet was a recommendation from ICAP at a recent audit. The clerk reminded everyone of the upcoming election filing deadline of 5 PM on Thursday, September 16 at the Appanoose County Auditor's office. Maintenance Supervisor Mitch Main reported on work being done to prepare for Fall Festival. Mulch has been re-dyed and mowing/trimming is complete. They will help with the big tent and band tent on Wednesday. FFA/Casey Kool did a great job putting corn stalks around posts in the park. The banner was hung using Baty's bucket truck and gutters were cleaned out at the same time. A trailer to move equipment around was purchased. Mitch is waiting to hear from the DNR to schedule the sewer license test. Mitch has applied at Northland CDL training in Mason City during the week of October 4. Councilman Ehrle has volunteered his time with mowing and Councilman Deal has offered to help as well.

Resident Complaints – A complaint was received regarding the camper being burnt on Church Street. The resident stated they got sick and was in the hospital for two days due to the smoke and smell. They stated they had contacted the sheriff and the Fire Department but they would not do anything. Mayor Miller told them to contact the homeowner. When calling the Sheriff, you have to give them your name. Also, 911 needs to be called, not just a local fireman. A complaint was received regarding two kids being bit by a dog on Church Street. The sheriff was contacted and Mayor Miller will find out what is being done.

Lake Avenue was discussed again. Debbie White has property abutting the street and was sent a certified letter to respond by September 9 if interested in purchasing her half of the street. No response was received, so that makes the owner on the other side of the street eligible to purchase. Pearl Street will not be closed and specific lines where the street starts and stops will be designated so a service alley can remain open. The costs to residents when purchasing closed alleys and streets will be added to the October council meeting agenda.

An unpaid invoice for mowing at 106 and 108 South William Street was discussed. The city attorney will be contacted regarding placing a tax lien on the property. The property has never been leveled since the building was torn down and weeds are growing. Liability for the property will be discussed with city attorney.

An invoice for cable storage and lawn mower blade repair was reviewed by the Council. Councilman Ehrle had a map that shows property lines and the cable is on the city's property so no rental fee will be paid and no mower blade repair will be paid.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-03 – Abandoned Vehicles was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-03. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-04 – Failure to Assist was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-04. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-05 – Interference with Official Acts was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-05. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-06–Public Disorder was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-06–Public Disorder. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Clerk Stogdill reviewed the City Street Finance Report for fiscal year 2021 with the council. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution No. 19-2021 – City of Moravia's Street Financial Report FY2021. Roll Call Vote: Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Martin-Absent. Motion carried.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle requested the Council start meeting twice a month to try to get more things accomplished. He stated we have streets that need repaired and the library building needs work. He would like to see the utility bill for street lights lowered stating we are paying approximately \$2,000 per month for the street lights. He feels we need to look at other options such as solar or turbine power. He would like to consider hiring a grant writer that gets paid based on the percentage of money received in grants. He would also like to see a new position at the city for a Parks and Code Enforcer. He would like to see an increase in the amount council is paid. Clerk Stogdill stated there are guidelines to follow regarding council raises and she would check with the League of Cities. A medical clinic in town is still a possibility and housing through the Ultra 7 group needs to be further investigated. Ehrle feels the council needs a work plan and an extra meeting each month would help accomplish that. September 28 at 4 PM will be the first special meeting. Councilman Baty discussed the softball field and a 12x12 piece of land at the school that the city owns. He agrees we need more housing in Moravia but wants to be cautious about TIF money. Lagoon upgrades, snow clearance, street upkeep, and other items could be needed if a housing development is put in Moravia.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller stated the city received one employment application for our seasonal job opening. Council approved the mayor talking to the applicant.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer