

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Sheila Kirby, Ron Deal, Ken Martin, and John Baty. Councilperson Gary Ehrle was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Marcia Benjamin, Marty Hatfield, and Paul Simpson were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Deal and seconded by Kirby to transfer \$3,593 from Special Revenues-Hillcrest Cemetery Savings to Special Revenues-Hillcrest Cemetery Checking to pay invoice to Ogle's Greenhouse for trees. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – None

Sewer/Lagoon Project – Nothing new to report. All documents have been submitted per requirements.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson requested permission from the Council for Saturday, October 23 to have a movie in the park for Halloween. Council agreed by consensus. Simpson inquired if they could use the popcorn machine from the concession stand at Trussell. Council agreed by consensus. They also need a speaker. A house burning training will be held at Sundown on October 16. Smoke training has already been conducted. Council inquired what would happen to old fire gear once the new gear is received. Simpson stated the old gear would be worn by those who do enter buildings where there is a fire. Council inquired about the old fire truck on the south side of the station. Simpson said it needs work including replacing bad valves and money is needed to make the repairs. There was discussion on shutting the department doors when they leave for a call in order to reduce the risk of items being stolen and to reduce utility costs. Twelve calls were reported, of which eleven were medical calls and one fire alarm.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. Mayor Miller talked to the Friends of the Library and the Library Board about the need for a grant to pay for a new handicap ramp.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin reported the trees are planted at the new section of Hillcrest Cemetery. Memorial trees will be available to purchase. Council reviewed pictures of damaged stones and tabled the item until the November meeting. Council discussed a columbarium for the new section and agreed by consensus to put it on the FY 2022/2023 budget, adding that it can be ordered but payment will not be until the new fiscal year.

Parks – Solar power lights have been installed at the crow's nest and picnic area at Trussell Park. A new rope has been put on the flag pole at Trussell.

Streets – Councilman Deal stated the re-surfacing project on J18 is done except for striping and the project price came in lower than the original estimate. Patch work on Deborah Street is done. A repair will be done on Church Street at the small culvert where there is a dip in the road. No parking signs will be posted on Trussell. Councilwoman Kirby will check into a grant for radar speed limit signs, stating Blakesburg and Drakesville have them.

Water – Delinquent accounts and water shut-offs for non-payment were reviewed. Council agreed by consensus to file a tax lien for \$167.21 for Account 161. Account 4027 has not paid their final bill. One last attempt will be made to collect. Councilman Baty reported a leak at a resident's home. If the leak is greater than 20,000 gallons, the leak rate will be applied to their invoice, per the city ordinance. The water pit at 107 East North Street was run over and broken. They are also parking on the sidewalk. A letter will be sent to resident that no parking is allowed on sidewalk and charges for the broken pit will be invoiced after Mitch checks on the damage.

Sewer – The sewer committee, mayor, Mitch Main, and Chris Sheldon met with Stephen Pedrick on the lagoon project and all paperwork is in process. Mitch is waiting to reschedule his sewer test with DNR.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. There was discussion on updating our ordinances to add the requirement of a privacy fence. Clerk Stogdill will request sample ordinances from other towns that have this requirement from Iowa Codification. The description of the privacy fence will need to be very specific. Discussion was tabled and will be added to the November agenda after more information is received. Council agreed by consensus to not proceed any further on clean up at 315 North William Street. Junk vehicles at 202 North Grant, 601 East North, and 504 North Brandon will be sent to the city attorney. Clean up of property at 106 North Henry will be

sent to city attorney. Sheriff will be contacted to have junk vehicle parked on street towed. An update will be requested on the cleanup of property located at 504 East North Street. Clean up of property on 208 South West Street has until November 6 to comply or legal proceedings will begin. Mayor Miller spoke with the owner of 810 Deborah regarding their items in the service alley. Owner agreed to move the items.

City Staff – City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. The city received a check from ICAP for \$1,000 for the safety grant. A tax lien has been filed on the three parcels the city mowed and payment was not received. City Attorney is working on the closing of Lake Avenue. Both parties with property adjacent to the street signed forms to obtain their portion of the vacated street. Mitch Main reported attending CDL driving school and receiving his CDL license. He has been taking days off to use up some of his accumulated comp time.

Resident Complaints – Councilwoman Kirby reported carpet being burned at 310 West North Street.

Councilmen Ehrle and Deal, Mayor Miller, Clerk Stogdill, and Mitch Main had a meeting with the Appanoose County Engineer, Brad Skinner. Instead of a 28E Agreement, a letter of understanding for snow removal and standard road maintenance has been drawn up. Also, a letter of understanding for the seal coat project has been written. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the Letter of Understanding regarding the 2021 seal coat. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the Letter of Understanding regarding snow removal and standard road maintenance. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried. The draft invoice for the sealing project was reviewed. The city has three fiscal years to pay for the project.

Resolution No. 21-2021 – Purchase Price and Fees When Closing Alleys and Streets was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to set the price at \$0.25 per square foot. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Nay, Baty-Nay, Kirby-Nay, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion failed. Council will continue the practice of only charging legal fees when closing alleys and streets.

Clerk Stogdill reviewed the City of Moravia's FY 2020/2021 Annual Financial Report with the Council. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to approve and adopt Resolution No. 22-2021 – 2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR). Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

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

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

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

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

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the alcohol license for Spencer's Grocery. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Absent. Motion carried.

The Council set Sunday, October 31 from 6 PM to 8 PM as Beggar's Night. Residents wishing to hand out treats should turn on their porch lights.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty complimented the new trees at Hillcrest Cemetery and the blue lights on the gazebos for Homecoming. Mayor Miller reported information from Councilman Ehrle: A person has been talked to regarding the grant writing position and he will be talking to the school soon. There is a lot of traffic through the city lot. Signs for "No Through Traffic" will be put up to see if that helps. Councilman Ehrle also inquired about a raise for council pay. Per the Iowa code, it is too close to the election to do a raise. It was also added that the council is a volunteer position.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller discussed the leaves that residents are blowing into the streets. A notice will be put in the newspaper. A brochure from Indian Hills Community College regarding a bond issue that will be on the ballot was available for Council to review.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer