

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Sheila Kirby, Ken Martin, Gary Ehrle, and John Baty. Councilman Ron Deal was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Marcia Benjamin, Stephen Pedrick, Marty Hatfield, Sam Kirby, Nichole Moore, Melanie Cowan, Vickie McDermott, and Paul Simpson were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Gary Ehrle and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-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: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to open the public hearing for the proposed property tax levy at 5:05 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. City Clerk Stogdill and Mayor Miller reported no questions or comments, verbal or written, had been received at City Hall. Clerk Stogdill asked for questions or comments from the public in attendance at the meeting. Marty Hatfield asked how much the tax rate was going down. Stogdill replied the tax rate for the city was going from 12.14778 to 11.45625, however assessed values have gone up. No other questions or comments were received from the public. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to close the public hearing for the proposed property tax levy at 5:07 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution 5-2022 – Maximum Property Tax Dollars of the City of Moravia, Iowa. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted. Clerk Stogdill recommended to the Council to set the date, time, and location for fiscal year 2022/2023 city budget at the next regular council meeting on March 8, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Moravia Community Building. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve and adopt Resolution 6-2022 setting the date, time, and location of the public hearing for fiscal year 2022/2023 city budget as March 8, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Moravia Community Building. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Comments from the public – Sam Kirby stated the Betterment Committee's park projects have been put on hold. He also stated he hoped the city did not give Trussell Park to the school as he thinks the city will maintain it better. He also voiced concerns regarding weight restrictions on streets, citing Albia did this and it caused a lot of complications. Concrete trucks were limited to hauling four yards of concrete at a time and deliveries at the school had to call city hall to get a driving route.

Melanie Cowan from the Ultra 7 Development group stated they have purchased lots and are building duplexes and homes in other towns in Appanoose County. They are still interested in developing in Moravia and asked if we knew of any lots available to purchase. Council was not aware of any lots for sale at the present time but would let her know if something becomes available to purchase.

Nichole Moore from Chariton Valley Planning and Development presented a contract proposal for general administrative services for the city's sanitary sewer project. Stephen Pedrick stated the contract proposal looked standard to him. The cost is \$30,000. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to accept the agreement with Chariton Valley Planning and Development and authorized Mayor Miller to sign the contract for the City. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker gave the council an update on the sewer lining project/lagoon upgrade. He wants to meet with the sewer committee, Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Roy Miller, and Nichole Moore at 4:00 PM on March 8, prior to the regular council meeting. Next month's regular meeting is too early to do a public hearing so will need to have a special meeting. French-Reneker's current contract just took the city to bid openings. He will present a new contract at the March 8 council meeting. Advertising for contractors will need to be done for one month. Pathfinders is finished with their portion of the project.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Chief Paul Simpson reported 18 medical calls for January 2022. The results of an inspection and costs for replacing their heating system was discussed. The prices for fireworks this year are increasing by twenty percent and orders will need to be placed early as they are having trouble getting them. They plan to have a hog raffle again to help pay for the fireworks. They are looking at a used truck with a cracked poly tank. The truck costs \$18,000 and the cost of a new poly tank is \$2,000. They are checking with USDA for available grants. USDA has a 75/25 grant but he did not know if there was a maximum dollar amount for that grant. Councilman Baty inquired if he had checked on getting a carburetor for the yellow truck that sits outside. Paul stated they put a carburetor on a smaller truck but it might be too much for it, so could possibly put it on the yellow truck. Baty also inquired if counseling was available for firemen and Paul stated it was available. A community/county emergency plan was also discussed. The Council told Paul they must approve any truck purchases prior to purchase.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. No representatives from the Library were present at the meeting.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle is working on new rules and costs for the cemetery.

Parks – When weather improves, a repair to the building is needed where the community building and library adjoin.

Streets – Meetings were held with the two sanitation companies in town regarding weight limits on streets. The trucks from both companies are within the limits in most cases. The city will fix aprons at the end of streets where they turn around with concrete as the budget allows.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Two shutoffs for non-payment were made in February. Thirty day notices of tax lien letters will be sent to Accounts 161 and 1770. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Martin to waive the \$100 reconnection fee for Account 490. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. Account 4090 will be paid by SIEDA.

Sewer – Discussed during French-Reneker's portion of meeting.

Updates to nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. One house has been torn down and removed. Another property has been cleaned up without issuing a citation. Two other properties have not made any progress or improvements as requested and are being issued citations.

City Staff – Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. The city is on target with spending and staying within the budget. The profit and loss summary and balance sheet were reviewed. Mitch Main discussed going to the Ottumwa sewer treatment plant to learn more about treatment for the operator test.

Resident Complaints – Resident with garbage piled in back yard has removed the garbage.

Streets - Councilman Ehrle reported trash trucks are within weight limits on streets in most places, so city will not be pursuing more weight restrictions.

The gas furnace at city hall has quit. Building is being heated by baseboard heat. Council has one bid to replace system and requested the mayor get another bid from Southern Iowa Heating and Cooling. Motion by Baty and seconded by Ehrle to replace the HVAC system at city hall in the current year's budget with the company that gives us the best bid. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle noted the council checks into a lot of different things in an attempt to save money and make things more efficient but they also listen to residents' opinions. He checked into giving Trussell Park to the school but they had already decided not to pursue that. The email alert the city received regarding cyberattacks on water systems was discussed. Ehrle reads the minutes of council meetings in nearby towns and noted Centerville was discussing civic readiness and an emergency notification system. He would like to inquire if Moravia residents could get on the list to receive notifications. Gary talked to a person interested in working for the city this summer. We need to start running ads and advertising for our seasonal openings. Councilman Martin inquired if city employees have bereavement benefits. Clerk Stogdill said the city does have bereavement pay and the policy is outlined in our employee handbook. Councilman Baty told the Council that McCann's are upgrading their vac system. They will be selling their 2005 model with a 500 gallon tank for \$25,000 and also a 2014 model for \$45,000. After much discussion, Council expressed an interest in the 2005 model but wants to know if money received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) could be used to pay for it. This will be discussed again at the March meeting to make a final decision.

Mayor Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Martin to adjourn at 7:08 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer