

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:05 PM on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the Moravia Community Building. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Sheila Kirby, Ken Martin, Gary Ehrle, Ron Deal, and John Baty. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Marcia Benjamin, Stephen Pedrick, Marty Hatfield, Sam Kirby, Nichole Moore, Julie Pribyl, Chris Sheldon, Marion Main, Stanley Spencer, and Pastor Jonathan Hall were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Jonathan Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to amend the agenda by adding "Setting the Date for Public Hearing on Drawings Specifications and Form of Contract for Sanitary Sewer Project." Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to open the public hearing for the FY 2022/2023 City Budget for Moravia at 5:10 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. City Clerk Stogdill and Mayor Miller reported no questions or comments, verbal or written, had been received at City Hall. No questions or comments were received from the public in attendance at the council meeting. Clerk Stogdill reported making one change to the budget since the workshops but the total dollar amounts did not change. We had not accounted for the \$5,000 payment for the Appanoose County Jail, only the fund transfer, so she took the \$5,000 expense from the sewer budget and added the \$5,000 expense to the Special Revenues budget to account for the payment. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to close the public hearing for the FY 2022/2023 City Budget for Moravia at 5:13 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution 7-2022 – City of Moravia's Budget and Certification of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Stanley Spencer from the Moravia Rock Committee presented plans for approval from the Council for landscaping around the Moravia Rock on the east side of the park. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the plans as presented by the Rock Committee. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – None.

Stephen Pedrick from French-Reneker gave the council an update on the sewer lining project/lagoon upgrade. We received approval from the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the release of funds as of March 3, 2022, for the Community Development Block Grant. This gives the City permission to proceed with the project. We need to set the public hearing for drawing specifications and form of contract for the sanitary sewer project for the May 10 regular council meeting and have bids due the same day at 3 PM. They will start advertising the last week of March for a month. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to set the public hearing for drawing specifications and form of contract for the sanitary sewer project for the May 10 regular council meeting at 5:00 PM. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – None.

Library – Report submitted by the Library Board. No representatives from the Library were present at the meeting. Two written resignations were submitted to the Council for approval. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to accept the resignations from the Library Board of Lori Scott and Barbara Breitenbach. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle received two bids for the columbarium for the new section of the cemetery. Putnam County Monuments was the lowest bid and no money is required up front. It should be delivered in August. Council agreed by consensus to accept the bid from Putnam County Monuments. Mitch Main reported hauling off at least ten loads of ashes from the burn pile at the cemetery.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby said the Betterment Committee and school will be working together again this year on a beautification day. If the city has anything to add to the list, let her know.

Streets – None.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Mitch Main talked with Nick McCann about repairing the fire hydrant and installing water pits. They have some time available now but will not have time later on in the season. Council approved repairing the fire hydrant and the following approvals for residents: 808 Pamela – Pit located in concrete driveway – put meter inside house; 404 North Brandon-unable to find curb stop – put meter inside house and locate curb stop later; Sunset Village Housing – Install two pits outside; Moravia Housing – install one pit outside; 401 West North – curb stop is in driveway and water line under garage floor – owner responsible for moving line and they will see if McCann can bore it; 106 North Henry – Meter is in house – hold off on a pit at this time; 505 South East – Unable to find curb stop – if water is ever shut down, find it then. The used potholer machine for sale by Cicco Construction was discussed at length. Council determined it would pay for itself over time and was high on the list of things needed at the city. Clerk Stogdill checked with the Iowa League of Cities and it was determined this purchase would qualify to be paid for by our ARPA funds. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to purchase the potholer machine for \$25,000 from Cicco Construction using ARPA funds. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Sewer – Mitch Main requested approval from the Council to purchase new manholes and castings in this year's budget so we have them to utilize when needed. Council agreed by consensus.

Updates to nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. Citations have been issued and a Notice to Abate Nuisance letter mailed.

City Staff – Clerk Sharla Stogdill had a request from Kathy Kearney at Iowa Trust Bank to use the city park on the square and to close the street east of library on April 16 for the Easter egg hunt. Council agreed by consensus. Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. The city remains on target with spending and staying within the budget. The city had a loss of \$73.85 for the month of February, however, the \$5,000 payment for the new law center was paid in February. The balance sheet was reviewed showing the totals in each fund and savings/checking accounts. Maintenance Supervisor Mitch Main stated the tires on the F150 will need replaced soon and requested approval from the Council to purchase in this year's budget. Council agreed by consensus. The Nazarene Church is going to construct a new parsonage. The driveway to the parsonage will go on top of a six inch water main. If there is an issue with a water break, the driveway may need to be torn out and that would be at the owner's expense. We need a written agreement for this and have it put in our ordinances stating any concrete over a water main or water stop will be owner's responsibility if there is a water leak and it has to be broken up.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller received one verbal complaint. They think we are picking on them and had a number of things they don't think the Council is doing correctly. He invited him to come to our open council meetings any time.

Clerk Sharla Stogdill conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-1 – Sewer Rates. The ordinance is to raise the minimum sewer rate \$3.50 to \$37.50 per month. At the budget workshop meetings, it was determined to raise the sewer minimum rate \$7 to pay for the lagoon upgrade, raising it by half the amount this year and half next year. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-01. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution No. 8-2022 – Employee Wage Increases. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried.

Council discussed hiring seasonal employees. Six employment applications have been received to date. Clerk Stogdill updated the job description for the seasonal laborer positions. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Deal to approve the job description changes. Roll Call Vote: Kirby-Aye, Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, and Baty-Aye. Motion carried. Council selected the following to conduct the interviews on Wednesday, March 16: Mayor Roy Miller, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Ron Deal, and Sheila Kirby. Starting pay will be \$15 per hour with a thirty day performance review to determine pay increases up to \$18 per hour. Mayor Miller will call all applicants and set up interview times for Wednesday, March 16.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Ehrle reported talking to our grant writer, Tasha Irving. Grants for sirens are a 50/50 grant and cost around \$10,000. She has not found any grants yet for traffic radar signs. Tasha has limited time to work on grants until after Easter. Councilman Ehrle also approached the Council about four day work weeks with the price of gas increasing and some of our employees commuting a distance. Employees could work four 10-hour days instead of five 8-hour days to save money commuting and utilities could be adjusted for the three days city hall is closed. Council did not take any action at this time about city hall closing one day but will leave it up to Mitch and Shaun to determine if they want to work four 10-hour days or not. Vandalism at Trussell Park was discussed and the tools stolen from the Fire Department. It was agreed we need security cameras at the Fire Department inside the front door, inside the back door, and at the front of the building. Councilman Baty will find out what company the school is using for security. Cameras would need to be seen at City Hall. Councilman Baty discussed the tornado siren and if there was any place to get coverage for Moravia. The tornado this past weekend was unable to be determined if it was near Moravia. The concession stand for ballgames at Trussell Park was discussed. We need to see if any individuals or organizations would like to run it. Councilwoman Kirby has received requests for a pickle ball court at the park. Council agreed for her to check on it. The status of the library furnace was discussed. Southern Iowa Heating and Cooling will be at city hall on Wednesday, March 9, replacing the unit that quit at city hall, so Mayor Miller will have them bid the library unit using the duct work that is already there.

Mayor Discussion Items – Mayor Miller has had questions on whether we will be doing city-wide cleanup days this year. Council agreed by consensus to not do the cleanup days. Mayor Miller reported the flag at the old cemetery had been taken down because it was ragged and torn up and a resident came to city hall very angry about it being removed. When we took it down, we tried to take it to their house but they were not home or did not answer the door. Due to the way the resident acted at city hall and towards one of our employees who went to the cemetery to help them, Roy requested they be banned from city hall and all city property. Council agreed for him to do whatever he thinks is necessary for the safety of our workers. Roy will have the Sheriff's office serve the resident with papers banning them. It was also requested for John Baty to install the remote lock to the clerk's door when he is at city hall to do the electrical work for the new furnace/AC unit.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 6:53 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:  
/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer