

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Sheila Kirby, Ron Deal, Gary Ehrle, and John Baty. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Marcia Benjamin, Tom Kramka, Carol Kramka, Amanda Smith, Pastor Jordan Horstick, Curg McCoy, and John Engle were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Jordan Horstick and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

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

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

Comments from the public – Curg McCoy discussed the Moravia's fire contract with Urbana Township. He stated the other two fire districts that serve their township charge \$0.60 per \$1,000 assessed. The difference would be \$12.25 between \$0.60 and \$0.6075 that Moravia is requesting. The fire department should send a report of their fire calls annually to their township. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to charge \$0.60 per \$1,000 assessed for Urbana and Monroe Townships for five years and to provide townships with the required annual reports. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

A shelter covering the Moravia rock was discussed. Council reviewed pictures of three rocks in other Iowa towns that are covered and a drawing by Shaun Wubben of a possible shelter for Moravia's rock. Curg McCoy is concerned about hail and sunlight damage to the rock. Councilman Baty suggested putting a seal coat on the rock every year. Concerns were voiced from Councilman Ehrle that a freedom rock needs to be free and not covered and that the legs of a shelter would be in the way for pictures and take away from the overall beauty of the rock. Security cameras are ordered and there would be a concern that the camera would have to be low enough to see the rock, but not low enough for people to move it. Concerns about lighting were also voiced. The city will contact our insurance agent regarding insurance coverage on the rock. Consensus was agreed by the Council to wait one year before deciding about a shelter to see if view is blocked for security cameras and to see if the weather affects it. The rock committee has contacted the DOT regarding the Tourist Oriented Directional Signing (TODS) program. The sign would direct tourists to the rock and are to be installed by the city at the sign's proposed location. The sign would say "Moravia Veterans and Heritage Rock." The sign would be located at Highway J18/East North Street prior to the intersection with South Henry Street. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve two signs on North Street, placement to be determined later. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 25-2022 was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution No. 25-2022 – Transfer Funds Budgeted for FY2023. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

CDBG/SRF Sewer Project - The budget prepared by Chariton Valley Planning and Development for the sewer project was reviewed by the Council.

Council Member John Baty introduced Resolution No. 26-2022 - Resolution Adopting and Approving Tax Compliance Procedures Relating to Tax-Exempt Bonds and moved for its adoption, seconded by Councilman Ron Deal; and after due consideration thereof by the City Council, the Mayor put the question upon the adoption of the said resolution and the roll being called, the following named Council members voted: Ken Martin-Aye, Ron Deal-Aye, John Baty-Aye, Gary Ehrle-Aye, Sheila Kirby-Aye. Whereupon, the Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted as hereinafter set out.

Non-compliance of the Council's orders on the dog issue at 502 West North Street was discussed. The dog has been seen in the front yard several times, not the back yard as agreed upon by the owners and council. The sign in the yard does not say "Beware of Dog" as agreed upon by the owners and council. The city attorney will be contacted regarding the city's options. The Council agreed by consensus to review the city's current dog ordinance and strengthen it so no issues happen in the future.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Eleven medical calls were reported for September.

Library – Amanda Smith reported 74 items donated to the library in September, 189 checkouts and renewals, and two new patrons. Library Director Ann Repp has retired effective October 1, 2022. A sub committee was formed to hire a new director and interviews were held. The position will include a thirty day orientation and evaluation period. Per the State Library Board, the Assistant Librarian position does not require any certification or training. The Assistant Librarian job description will be updated. Carol and Tom Kramka have been working at the library to keep it open during the transition. New chairs are needed for the front desk. The Board will be doing a deep clean/purging of the library on October 13 at 4:30 PM. Computers are still running on Windows 7 which will become obsolete soon. New computers will be added to next year's budget. Tutoring after school began September 21. Snacks for kids are provided and donations are welcome.

Cemetery – Work on the new road continues and pins are being placed for burial sites.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby reported a movie night will be held at the park on October 22 at dusk. They are working with the fire department on possibly having a soup supper the same night. The Nazarene Church will have a bounce house.

Streets – Nothing to report.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. The city clerk reported six waters were shut off for non-payment and 49 letters were mailed to delinquent customers. Motion by Deal and seconded by Martin to write off Account 4172 in the amount of \$403.86. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Collection attempts will still be made. Mitch Main reported the city passed the copper and lead test.

Sewer – Infiltration has improved.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were discussed.

City Staff – Clerk Stogdill will be participating in a webinar on “Budgeting in ClerkBooks” on November 18. An application for a rebate for the new furnace at the library has been submitted to Alliant Energy. Sales tax and water excise tax (WET) are now paid to the state monthly instead of quarterly. Financial reports were reviewed with the Council. Mitch Main discussed bids he had received for a new lawn mower. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to purchase a 60” Gravely Pro Turn 660 lawn mower from the Machinery Barn for \$13,908.02, paying 80% of the cost from the Emergency Fund, and 5% each from Parks, Cemetery, Streets, and Sewer. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Repair costs for the old mower are \$1,000, which the Council authorized Mitch to repair and keep as a back-up mower. Mitch reported fire hydrants will be flushed this fall. He has classes to complete before March for continuing education for his sewer license. Christmas light bulbs have been ordered to prepare for the upcoming holiday lights. Shaun Wubben reported the light rain we received made the toilet paper in the park (from Homecoming) stick to the grass making it more difficult to clean up. Basketball court lines at Trussell Park have been painted.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported on anonymous telephone calls received at city hall on weekends and after hours complaining about dogs in Westview. The owner of the dogs has been talked to.

The Community Investment and Settlement Agreement with Canadian Pacific Railway Company was not signed by the Council due to several concerns. Councilman Ehrle reported after the merger we can possibly expect longer wait times at the tracks due to the increased length of trains. Moravia can expect increased train traffic up to 18 trains per day, compared with an average of four per day now. The city has concerns for the safety of vehicles and pedestrians. This will complicate the jobs of our fire and rescue members trying to cross with emergency vehicles and the volunteers coming and going to the fire station. There are also concerns about noise increases due to horns and engines, increased vibration, and possibly property values reduced by up to 18 percent. Vehicle traffic will need an alternative emergency route which creates concerns on street conditions. Council agreed by consensus to ask the railroad to repair the J18 track crossing/pedestrian crossing with cement and installation of crossing gates. Financial funds will also be requested for repairs of streets used for alternative routes. The city will request the overpass at Brandon Street be repaired. Training for our Fire and Rescue volunteers on hazardous material, chemical and oil spills will be requested. They will be asked to address vibration concerns for those living in close proximity of the tracks and reduce the speed of train traffic. The pile of railroad ties north of town will be requested to be removed. They will also be asked to consider a cement road from South Trussell at Chariton Street to West Church Street (approximately four blocks). Councilman Ehrle has contacted numerous city officials in other towns being affected by the merger and several have already made agreements with the railroad after negotiations and have started making improvements in their community.

Mayor Miller conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-04. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-04 – Ordinance amending the code of ordinances of the city of Moravia, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Junk Vehicles. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Motion carried.

Council agreed by consensus to reschedule the November regular meeting from November 8 to November 15 due to Election Day being on November 8 and city hall council chambers being used for the election.

Resolution No. 27-2022 was introduced by City Clerk Sharla Stogdill. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve and adopt Resolution No. 27-2022 – Updated Seatbelt/Restraint Policy. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution No. 28-2022 was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution No. 28-2022 – Resolution Setting Time and Place of Hearing on a Proposal to Vacate a Portion of the Alley Running East West Between Lot 23 and Lot 24, East Addition to Moravia, Appanoose County, Iowa to November 15, 2022 at 5 PM at Moravia City Hall. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution No. 29-2022 was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve and adopt Resolution No. 29-2022 – Resolution Setting Time and Place of Hearing on a Proposal to Convey a Portion of the Alley Running East West Between Lot 23 and Lot 24, East Addition to Moravia, Appanoose County, Iowa to November 15, 2022 at 5 PM at Moravia City Hall. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Mayor Miller introduced Resolution No. 30-2022. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution No. 30-2022 – Resolution Setting Time and Place of Hearing on a Proposal to Convey a Portion of Lake Avenue in the City of Moravia, Appanoose

County, Iowa to November 15, 2022 at 5 PM at Moravia City Hall. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

The 2022 Annual Financial Report was reviewed with the Council by City Clerk Sharla Stogdill. Resolution No. 31-2022 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Deal and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution No. 31-2022 – Resolution to Approve 2022 Annual Financial Report. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

The City Council agreed by consensus to leave beggar's night in Moravia on Halloween. Residents wishing to hand out treats should turn their porch lights on between 6 PM and 8 PM on Monday, October 31.

Council Discussion Items – Council agreed by consensus to leave our two seasonal employees on the payroll as needed through the winter.

Mayor Discussion Items – Nothing to report.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:04 PM. Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

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