

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Sheila Kirby, Ron Deal, John Baty, and Gary Ehrle. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Marcia Benjamin, Tom Kramka, Carol Kramka, Paul Simpson, Heather Basinger, Casey Basinger, Don Powless, Raelynn Robinson, Tanner Robinson, and Amanda Smith 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, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Bills and receipts were presented and discussed. Clerk Stogdill noted the \$5,000 payment to the Appanoose County Law Center and the seal coat agreement payable to Appanoose County Farm-to-Market Funds is for the full amount of the agreement instead of half as decided at the budget workshop meetings. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the bills and receipts. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Raelynn Robinson presented information to the Council about her family's dog being attacked by the neighbor's dog on January 31, 2023. The law was called and the dog was taken to the vet, however, their dog died the next day. Casey and Heather Basinger have a wireless fence and it contains their dogs, however, it does not prevent other dogs that are running loose from entering their property. Basinger's stated the Robinson dog broke loose and was on their property. Casey declared his dogs were also bitten by the Robinson dog. Don Powless said he had experience in law enforcement at both Centerville and Albia and had experience with dog issues in both towns. He stated after a dog gets loose from its chain several times you need to do something different. Tanner Robinson declared they had tried different things but it didn't work. After both parties presented their information, Mayor Miller confirmed contacting the sheriff's office was the right thing to do and the city's hands are tied. The city will be contacting the sheriff's office to get footage of the video and an incident report to keep on record.

Comments from the public – Carol Kramka inquired what could be done about cats getting on her porch and spraying her porch and furniture. She also told the Council there are businesses run out of people's homes and feels patrons of those businesses need to park where they are not blocking other residents' driveways.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to open the public hearing for the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 at 5:40 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Mayor Miller and Clerk Stogdill confirmed no questions or comments regarding the proposed property tax levy had been received at city hall and there were no questions or comments from the public attending the hearing. The proposed maximum property tax is 12.11419%. The increase is due to an increase in assessed values and an increase in health insurance premiums and other employee benefits. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to close the public hearing for the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 at 5:43 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Resolution #4-2023 – Maximum Property Tax Dollars of the City of Moravia was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve Resolution #4-2023. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Discussion was held by the council on the location, date, and time of the public hearing for the 2023/2024 budget. Resolution #5-2023 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill to set the date, time, and location of the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 City Budget for Moravia as Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5 PM, at Moravia City Hall. Motion by Baty and seconded by Deal to approve Resolution #5-2023. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

CDBG/SRF Sewer Project – Municipal Pipe Tool is scheduled to be on site in early March and start lining work on approximately March 20. Department Reports were given:

Fire – The fire department reported ten calls in January. Discussion was held regarding the amount of insurance coverage needed for the fire truck Moravia is purchasing from Centerville. It was agreed by consensus from the Council to insure it for the same amount as Truck 479B. A public hearing for a budget amendment to purchase the fire truck will be held in March.

Library – Amanda Smith from the Library Board reported on activities at the library. No results have been received from the grant request for a handicap ramp and door. The bake sale and open house were both a success. A \$500 sponsorship donation to the Friends of the Library was received. The Library Director met with the men's group at the Methodist Church and received good ideas from them. There is still no information available on the Enrich Iowa funds. A program on the underground railroad in Appanoose County will be held at the library on Sunday, February 19 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Cemetery – Councilman Ehrle discussed the city's agreement to deposit money from the sale of columbarium niches back into the Pfannebecker account the city has established to be used for additional columbariums and for continued improvements for future projects at the cemetery.

Parks – Lights at the tennis court at Trussell Park have been staying on. Councilman Baty will check the timer to see if it has quit working.

Streets – Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the quote received from the County Engineer for Vogel Traffic Services to complete the striping on North Street for \$985.80. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye. Motion carried. Councilman Martin noted the yield sign and speed limit signs are up.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. One resident's water was shut off for non-payment in February. Council agreed by consensus to set \$50 as the minimum amount due before water is disconnected for non-payment.

Sewer – Mitch Main reported spot repairs are helping and our infiltration numbers are better at the lagoon. The city is in compliance with our permit. Council would like to add Sump Pumps as an agenda item at the March regular council meeting. Our ordinances need to be specific about sump pumps not being connected to the sewer.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were discussed. No new items were added.

City Staff – City Clerk Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. Our upcoming property insurance renewal has been received and Mayor Miller appointed Councilwoman Kirby to lead the renewal process. Consensus by the Council to allow Iowa Trust Bank to use the park on the square and to block off Henry Street between the park and the housing units to have the annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Clerk Stogdill inquired if anything else besides the new fire truck and health insurance premiums needed to be amended on our current budget. This led into a discussion on spending the city's franchise fees for a new siren. Councilman Ehrle researched information about an emergency siren for the community. It would be located at the fire station and have a 6500 foot range. The cost through Federal Signal Corporation is \$28,067.76 but an \$800 credit will be given if we provide the pole and installation. The hookup and program fee to connect the siren to the Appanoose County Sheriff is \$500. Jeff Royer at Alliant Energy quoted a price of \$700 for a pole, but would donate it to the community and install it at no charge. Clerk Stogdill stated franchise fees can be used for public safety, construction, reconstruction, or repair of streets and sidewalks, repair of public works and public utilities, among other things, so asked the Council if the siren was their top priority to spend the money on. After discussion, the council decided public safety was their top priority. Motion by Ehrle and seconded by Baty to purchase the emergency siren. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Mitch Main reported on attending a wastewater class held in Moravia. Eight communities attended the training. He has completed most of the lead line inventory for the DNR. Maintenance on city trucks is in process.

Resident Complaints – Several residents reported not receiving their water bills in the mail. Residents are encouraged to have their water and sewer invoices e-mailed. A resident inquired about several potholes on Michael Street and ruts being caused by parking on the sides of the street. Resident was informed the church owns the street and not the city.

Mayor Miller conducted the second reading of Ordinance #2023-01 – Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Moravia, Iowa, by Adding a New Section Regarding Compression Brakes. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the second reading of Ordinance #2023-01. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Ordinances regarding dogs and pit bulls from Albia and Centerville were reviewed. Fence requirements, muzzles, and insurance requirements were all discussed. Councilman Deal stated he is not in favor of prohibiting specific breeds in town, inquiring where you would draw the line. Councilman Ehrle is in favor of prohibiting specific breeds or if the city does allow specific breeds, the license fee needs to be higher and proof of insurance required. Councilman Baty voiced his concern regarding Ottumwa having lawsuits with specific breeds. Council tabled the topic until the March meeting to give everyone time to research it more and study the ordinances from other towns. The first reading of Ordinance #2023-02 – Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Moravia, Iowa, by Adding a New Section Regarding Dog Bites was postponed.

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

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Martin reviewed a property on North Brandon Street that has vehicles and debris that need cleaned up. Council agreed by consensus to complete the current nuisance property projects we have first before starting on more. Councilman Ehrle voiced concerns about emails that are not opened or received. He suggested adding in the feature that shows if the email was open or read. Ehrle inquired if the Council wants him to pursue researching solar lights for the two Moravia entrance signs to submit to ICAP for the safety grant. Ehrle also suggested part-time office staff be seriously considered for vacations and absences of the city clerk. Councilwoman Kirby discussed the council's vision of the business district, inquiring what the Council want the square to look like in the future and what kinds of buildings they want on the square. Since the city does not have zoning and two sides of the square are residential, the topic was tabled and will be on the March agenda.

Mayor Info and Discussion Items – None.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:11 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

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