

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

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 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, Bill Benjamin, Tom Kramka, Carol Kramka, Paul Simpson, Amanda Smith, and Samantha Robinson 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 February 14, 2023 regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-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, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Comments from the public – Bill Benjamin stated the Betterment Committee did not receive any funding this year, but still have projects they want to work on. They will work with Councilmen Baty and Deal and they can convey to other councilpersons about projects. Marcia Benjamin said the tentative date to have a cleanup day with school kids is May 3.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to open the public hearing for the Amended Budget #2 for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 at 5:06 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 had been received at city hall and there were no questions or comments from the public attending the hearing. Clerk Stogdill reviewed the additional expenses being added to the budget for the purchase of the fire truck from Centerville and related equipment, the purchase of the new emergency siren, and an increase in health insurance premiums and coverage for additional employees and spouses. Motion by Deal and seconded by Kirby to close the public hearing for the Amended Budget #2 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 at 5:09 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Resolution #6-2023 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Amended Budget #2 for the City of Moravia was introduced by Baty. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #6-2023 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Amended Budget #2 for the City of Moravia. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Baty-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Motion by Deal and seconded by Martin to open the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 City Budget for Moravia at 5:10 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 had been received at city hall and there were no questions or comments from the public attending the hearing. Clerk Stogdill reviewed the email received from the State regarding the passage of Senate File 181 that was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on February 20. This bill required the Department of Revenue to recalculate residential rollback for the 2022 assessment year. The rollback on residential property is being lowered from 56.4919% to 54.6501%. This results in a reduction in taxable valuations in the residential, commercial, industrial, and railroad property classes. This means the amount of property tax dollars will be lower than the previous taxable valuation. For Moravia, this resulted in \$3,767 less the city will receive in property taxes. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to close the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 City Budget for Moravia at 5:14 PM. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried. Resolution #7-2023 – City of Moravia's Budget and Certification of Taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve Resolution #7-2023. 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 mid-March to start lining work. If not completed by May, penalties will apply. Clerk Stogdill stressed the project needs to be completed and paid for in this fiscal year as budgeted.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Fire Chief Paul Simpson brought the new fire truck to city hall for council members to look at. Fireworks will be on July 1 with a rain date of July 2. The fire department received a donation from Agriland for \$3,000 for equipment and gear. They also received a grant for purchasing a thermal imaging gun and two personal thermal imaging guns.

Library – Amanda Smith from the Library Board reported on activities at the library. No library board meeting was held in March. The county contribution for the upcoming fiscal year is \$6,968 which is an increase of \$1,000. The Friends of the Library are being awarded a grant in the amount of \$13,450 to pay for the handicapped ramp at the library. They did not receive the full amount requested so the grant does not include the handicapped door openers. The Friends of the Library will try to get another grant to pay for the door openers. Samantha Robinson said the bid for the new ramp does not include tearing out the old ramp or laying the concrete pad. Mitch Main said it would be no problem for the city to tear out the old ramp and recommends the pad be laid from the foundation of the building to the existing sidewalk. Another possible money saver would be for a city employee to pick up the ramp instead of having it delivered. The project must be completed in 2023. The Council agreed by consensus to pay the difference in concrete if it costs more than the money receive for the grant. There was a large turnout for the presentation at the library by Enfys McMurry and a livestream was also held. Samantha Robinson reported on attending reading night at the school. She signed kids up for library cards and passed out the March and April calendar of events. Forms for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library were also handed out. This is a program that sends books to kids at home. Women as Leaders will be held at the library on March 15, a bake sale on March 16, and Kristi Demry book signing on March 30. The summer reading program starts on June 12. Consensus approval was given by the council for the library to host movies in the park on the west side. A movie screen has been donated and the Friends of the Library will purchase a projector. Tom Kramka from the Library Board noted Windstream will be replacing outdated internet equipment and the cable coming in to the library. No date or schedule yet for this project.

Cemetery – Nothing to report.

Parks – Nothing to report.

Streets – Councilman Baty reported on a soft spot on John Street where the cold patch is not holding. Cold patch on Henry Street where it was seal coated is not holding. Mitch will get a truck load of cold patch in May. He will have seasonal laborers start around the first of April. Mitch has ordered rock for the streets and will be doing more concrete patching in April.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. One resident's water was shut off for non-payment in March. Total delinquencies at the beginning of March totaled \$5,239 and approximately 65 delinquent letters were mailed out. Paul Simpson inquired about the fire hydrant not working at the depot. Mitch is having difficulty locating the valve. The City will be flushing hydrants in April or May and would like for a representative of the Fire Department to assist so they can see all the hydrants.

Sewer – Nothing to report.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were discussed. Mayor Miller attended a court hearing on March 14 for cleanup at 104 North East Street. The mayor was given permission to go on the property to take pictures each week. The next court date is April 11 and progress must be made on the cleanup. After the cleanup is complete, the owner must pay the court costs. The Council will consider closing the alley after cleanup is completed.

City Staff – City Clerk Stogdill reviewed financial reports with the Council. Budget work began in December and is finishing up four months later in March. SAM registration has been completed. This is the government website you have to be registered on in order to receive government grants and loans. The Lake Avenue vacation and Argo alley vacation paperwork is done and payment received. Sharla will be attending a webinar on April 5 at 2 PM for ARPA reporting. Mayor Miller reported all passwords for the clerk's computer and programs are locked in the safe. Mitch Main reported on installing posts and street signs.

Resident Complaints – Several more dog complaints have been received. Jerry Power requested to hook up to the city's light pole at the Moravia entrance sign on Highway 5 for his flag pole. Council denied his request due to REC wiring.

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

Resolution #8-2023 – Wage Increases for Employees of the City of Moravia was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution #8-2023 – Wage Increases for Employees of the City of Moravia. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Nay, Kirby-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution #9-2023 – Rental Rate for Community Building was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve and adopt Resolution #9-2023 – Rental Rate for Community Building. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution #10-2023 – Resolution Adopting a Policy for the Usage of the City's Credit Card was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution #10-2023 – Resolution Adopting a Policy for the Usage of the City's Credit Card. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

The first reading of Ordinance #2023-03 – Sewer Rates was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Deal and seconded by Baty to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2023-03. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Deal-Aye, Baty-Aye, Ehrle-Aye, Kirby-Aye. Motion carried.

Mitch Main reviewed a sample ordinance regarding sump pumps that is used in another town. The ordinance includes fines for purposely tapping into a sewer with sump pumps and for refusal for inspection. Mitch will work on changes to the ordinance and Sharla will send to Iowa Codification for consideration to be added to the Moravia Code of Ordinances.

Discussion by the Council continued regarding dog ordinances. The mayor continues to get dog complaints every week. Residents read the newspaper about the discussions and think it has been passed when we are only in the discussion phase at this time. The Council is considering adding cats to the ordinance (not just dogs) and that they cannot run loose and must be vaccinated and licensed. The Council is considering raising the annual license fee to \$10 per cat and dog. For dogs and cats found to be unlicensed and without vaccinations, the owner will be fined or the animal will be removed from the city. The council would like language added to the ordinance that service animals must be licensed and vaccinated, but no fee will be charged. Dog and cat owners not complying with the city ordinance will receive a written citation and penalty fee. If a dog or cat bites a person, dog, cat, or other animal a second time, it shall be removed from the city by the owner within 24 hours. If not removed by the owner, it will be removed by the Sheriff. Clerk Stogdill will send information to Iowa Codification for the Council to consider in three readings at future council meetings.

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

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

Councilwoman Kirby discussed the ICAP property insurance renewal. The thermal imaging gun just purchased for \$12,500 needs to be added to the city's property insurance. Kirby inquired if the Council wants to increase valuations of any of the buildings or properties. The sign at Trussell Park possibly needs an increased value on the policy. Playground equipment is also undervalued. To replace the playground equipment would cost in excess of \$50,000. All security cameras need to be added to the policy. The Council requested Kirby inquire about premium differences with various increases in deductibles. The renewal will be finalized at the April regular council meeting.

Councilwoman Kirby discussed the Council's vision for the businesses on the square. With Moravia not having any zoning in place, she inquired if there are minimum standards we need to put in place. She would like for the Council to plan what they would like for the town to look like in the future. There were discussions regarding "historical" status and how that would affect the city. Councilman Ehrle had talked with a few people to get their opinions and was told some concerns are affordable housing and apartments, a need for entertainment, lack of current businesses, child care, and restoring historical store fronts. Grants to repair buildings need to be investigated, however, in the past, the city needed to own the building before a grant could be approved. Ehrle also suggested incentives for people to build housing.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty inquired about the sidewalk north of city hall. Mayor Miller has talked to one of the owners and they are aware and will be installing a sidewalk after they build on the property. Councilman Baty also suggested having the council packets on a television screen to review instead of making copies each month. Tim Pettibone inquired with Baty about running concrete in his driveway to the new building and extending it to the road. Mitch Main said a sewer main goes through there so Tim needs to be aware that if there is a problem, the city would have access. Alliant Energy will be setting the pole for the emergency siren. Windstream is doing the park pole. Mayor Miller reminded the Council about adding a street light by the railroad. Alliant will be contacted. Councilman Ehrle discussed the pole for the siren is 55 feet tall and Alliant will flag where we want it and be here the next week to install it. Councilman Ehrle also discussed a backup person for the clerk's position. The city will need to advertise for the position, starting at eight hours per week. Councilman Ehrle will work on writing the ad. The printer in the clerk's office may possibly need replaced. Councilwoman Kirby notified the Council about a nuisance abatement workshop being held May 10 in Newton.

Mayor Info and Discussion Items – Mayor Miller asked the Council if they want to do a city-wide cleanup this year. Councilman Baty said it cost too much money in labor and equipment usage. The mayor stated some towns use a roll-off dumpster but Council agreed by consensus not to have a dumpster or a city-wide cleanup.

Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to adjourn at 7:50 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

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