

**MORAVIA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Ron Deal, Tom Kramka, John Baty, and Sheila Kirby (arrived at 5:10 PM). Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Amanda Smith, Marcia Benjamin, Ryan Moore, Carol Kramka, and Jessi Nicoletto were also present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Councilman Ken Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller welcomed the public.

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

Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Deal to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2024, special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Kramka and seconded by Baty to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, special meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – None.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Ryan Moore addressed the Council regarding the February 5, 2024 fire department election of officers. Ryan is the new fire chief for the next four years. He thanked Paul Simpson for his previous service as fire chief. Recruitment and retention are a top priority for the department, as well as staying up to date on equipment and boosting the department's public image. He plans to sell the fire truck that is sitting outside the building as quickly as possible. The department will be working on their ISO rating. Eight calls were received during the month of January. He plans to have a city-wide fireworks committee to help with fundraising for the annual fireworks display in Moravia. Mayor Miller inquired about having an ambulance service that transported patients. Jessi Nicoletto and Ryan both explained the certification at that level is difficult, plus insurance and paid employees were the main reasons they do not transport.

Library – Library Director Amanda Smith stated the "Library Legends Read Together" program is going well with several children coming to the library to read and do crafts. The "Bring Your Own Craft" program is still not generating much participation. A grant application for new computers for the library has been submitted by the Friends of the Library group. The library closure for ceiling repairs beginning February 19 was discussed. Amanda will be working out of city hall during the construction time. A sex offender policy will be drafted and submitted to the Library Board for review. Cookie decorating was held February 10, an insect zoo is scheduled for July 17, and plans are underway for the summer reading program.

Cemetery – Councilman Martin noted someone is taking wood from the burn pile.

Parks – No updates.

Streets – Councilman Deal is working with Nate Shilling regarding a quote for striping for J3T and Brandon Street. Center striping will be approximately \$1,000 and white stripes on the edge of streets would be an additional \$1,000 to \$1,300 more. A final decision will be made once the city receives the actual quotes. Councilman Kramka stated the city needs to get serious about repairing and patching streets over the next few years and needs to save money to prepare. Maintenance Supervisor Mitch Main discussed the possibility of renting a Dura Patcher machine, which is like a seal coat patch. City staff went to Albia to view their machine. The cost to rent is \$900 per day, \$2,700 per week, or \$8,100 per month. The city currently spends approximately \$1,500 in cold patch every spring and this seal coat patch should hold up longer. The city would still have to buy their own emulsion and rock on top of the rental price. Rental options versus purchasing a machine were discussed at length. Mitch also reviewed the culvert project on West North Street. He has received two quotes so far but told the Council he believed the city crew could do the repairs cheaper. A lengthy discussion on options for repairs and closing the street while repairs are made ensued. Motion by Deal and seconded by Kramka to have city employees do the culvert project for approximately \$7,000. Roll Call Vote: Deal-Aye, Martin-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Baty-Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Deal, with no second, to purchase a Dura Patcher machine using ARPA funds. After discussion that we needed more information about the price of the machine, Deal retracted his motion.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Water was shut off for one customer for non-payment in February. Actions of a disgruntled resident were reviewed and Council advised the city attorney be contacted for legal advice. State code prohibits the harassment of public officers and employees in Section 718.4.

Sewer – Mitch Main and Roy Miller went to Donnellson, Iowa on February 7 to look at a Lemna lagoon system. The city of Donnellson built their Lemna system in 2013 at a cost of \$3.3 million. The first month's utilities for this system in 2013 was \$7,000. Mitch and Roy will be going to Brighton, Iowa to look at a SAGR system on February 14 and DeSoto, Iowa on February 15 to look at a NitrOx system. All three systems require a Grade 2 operator. The City is preparing to make the best decision for the lagoon system upgrade required by the EPA.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. The new court hearing date for property at 104 North East Street is February 27. Councilman Baty contacted Alliant Energy about the collapsed roof on property at 104 North John and Alliant cut the power line going to the property. Council agreed by consensus not to take any further action on the property at this time. Discussion was held on two properties on old highway 5.

City Staff – City Clerk Stogdill reviewed financial reports. The clerk has been working on the city's budget and a budget amendment. Councilman Baty requested financial reports be e-mailed to the Council for review prior to council meetings.

Resident Complaints – Councilwoman Kirby discussed the abundance of trains that are blocking West North Street. Just this week, trains blocked the street twice within two hours.

Resolution #8-2024 – Application for Tax Exemption for Paul Witt was introduced by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve and adopt Resolution #8-2024 - Application for Tax Exemption for Paul Witt. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Aye, Kramka-Aye. Resolution approved and adopted.

Council agreed by consensus to close the streets on the Moravia square for the Easter egg hunt sponsored by Iowa Trust Bank on March 30, 2024.

The fiber optics permit was discussed. If the city receives a signed document saying the railroad will repair our tracks, the City Council will approve the permit at that time.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed bulk water rates in the Moravia Code of Ordinances, Chapter 92, #4. With the amount of time involved in filling tanks, tracking gallons purchased, and collecting funds, the bulk water rate needed to be increased. Council agreed by consensus to have the ordinance updated for three future readings to change the bulk water rate to \$12.50 per 1,000 gallons of water with a minimum charge of \$50. They also added verbiage to include it must be pre-paid.

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

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed balances in the city's bank accounts and available interest rates for savings accounts and Certificates of Deposit at Iowa Trust Bank. The Council requested the clerk contact the bank to request better interest rates. Resolution 3-2024 – Transfer of Funds will be reviewed again at the regular meeting in March.

City Clerk Sharla Stogdill reviewed the proposed amended budget amount for library ceiling repairs. The city received another deposit for franchise fees in February and Sharla inquired if the Council wanted to amend the budget for the new total in the Franchise Fees fund of \$25,337. She also inquired if the Council wanted the ARPA funds included in the amended budget so those funds could be spent this fiscal year. Council agreed by consensus on both increasing the dollar amount of franchise fees and adding the full amount of ARPA funds to the amended budget. A public hearing will be held at the regular council meeting in March for the amended budget.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Baty requested a letter be sent to the owner of the dog that is running loose at 309 North John and the owner of the dogs at 106 North Henry.

Mayor Information and Discussion Items – Mayor Miller applied for a grant for \$3,000 for the community building to pay for new blinds, paint, and bathroom fixtures.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Kramka to adjourn at 7:18 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer