

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

The regular meeting of the Moravia City Council was called to order by Mayor Roy Miller at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at Moravia City Hall. In addition to Mayor Miller, those present at the meeting were Councilpersons Ken Martin, Tom Kramka, John Baty, and Sheila Kirby. Councilman Ron Deal was absent. Sharla Stogdill, Mitch Main, Shaun Wubben, Amanda Smith, Marcia Benjamin, Bill Benjamin, Carol Kramka, Ryan Moore, Megan Irving, Heather Whitney, Sam Swenson, Jayne Gibb, Pastor Jonathan Hall, and Eric Wilson 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 Kramka and seconded by Kirby to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kramka to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024, regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

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

Comments from the public – Moravia School Superintendent Sam Swenson stated the electronic sign project is at a standstill. The Moravia school board is requesting occasional assistance by city personnel in emergency situations with maintenance and snow removal at the school. The school could pay wages or trade workers if the city needs assistance. The school is in the process of purchasing a building to be used as a daycare facility and requests assistance with TIF taxes. Eric Wilson inquired where the issue stands with the flooding of his basement and the railroad culvert. Both Councilman Baty and Mayor Miller stated it was out of the city's hands since it is not city property. The city had previously sent a letter to the railroad asking them what they could do to correct the problem so it does not happen again. Jayne Gibb addressed the council regarding a letter she sent to them about their lack of interest in keeping the town in good shape and the city streets that are in neglect. She requested street repairs be done including resurfacing the street she lives on (Deborah Street) since the property owners pay higher taxes on her cul-de-sac. She stated there is a lack of pride in their town. She also has issues with snow removal on her cul-de-sac and a hole that was dug in the service alley in September 2023. The Council explained that service alleys are for utility companies and the city cannot tell them what to do. The hole she is referring to was dug by Alliant Energy, not the City of Moravia. It was also explained that the source of income for street repairs is not from property taxes, but is received from Road Use taxes and a portion of the Local Option Sales Tax. The Council has one more year to pay on a loan for money that was borrowed to repair streets in 2020. The city has limited resources and plans to do more street repairs in the FY2026 budget after the loan is paid off and funds in a certificate of deposit become available. The Council will review the conditions of streets and prioritize them by their condition and traffic usage to decide the order of the streets to be repaired in the future. It was also stressed the Council and city employees have a lot of pride in their town.

Megan Irving and Heather Whitney from the Fall Festival Committee addressed the Council regarding plans for this year's Fall Festival. The Festival schedule has been finalized. The City agreed to pay half of the cost for the regular and handicap porta-johns at Festival. A list was reviewed of the items the city will need to do in preparation of the Festival activities. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to allow the Fall Festival to use the city's streets for their 2024 Festival. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. Council thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

Department Reports were given:

Fire – Fire Chief Ryan Moore reported twenty-four calls in July. The department has been conducting training of personnel. Sealed bids were opened for the three items they had for sale. Council agreed by consensus for the Fire Association to deposit the funds from the sale to their account and not the city's account. They are in the process of repairing the ceiling damage from the water leak. Preparations are underway for Fall Festival. Food has been ordered for the breakfast and they will be participating in the parade. Questions were addressed regarding who has the authority to call for life flight to land in Moravia. Chief Moore does have the authority but he typically lets the Centerville ambulance make the call. The location for life flight to land may possibly be changing. The Junior Firefighter's program has one participant. Ryan also thanked the council and city employees for always doing a good job of plowing the snow on Deborah Street in the winter and making sure they can get out early in case of an emergency.

Library – Library Director Amanda Smith reviewed library activities with the Council. The Iowa State Insect presentation was a success with 43 participants. Several donations for the food pantry at the library have been received and vouchers for milk, eggs, and bread are available, paid for by monetary donations to the food pantry. Weapons of the Civil War presentation/demonstration will be October 19. Donations of a painting or photograph for a local art show and silent auction will be held in December. Funds will be used for the food pantry and other library programs. The Friends of the

Library are making a fall themed basket to raffle at Fall Festival. Donations are needed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to accept Susan Cole's resignation from the Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Martin and seconded by Baty to approve Jeannie Melhus as a new member of the Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Cemetery – Councilman Baty requested cedar tree in the old cemetery be removed.

Parks – Councilwoman Kirby noted the pickle ball court is starting to take shape.

Streets – Councilman Kramka reported he and Councilman Deal will be putting a list together of priority streets to repair. Councilwoman Kirby inquired about the tube project by the bridge on West North Street. Repairs are budgeted for this fiscal year.

Water – Delinquent accounts were reviewed. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to write off Account 4106 in the amount of \$76.91 and turn over to collections. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Sewer – Mitch Main reported working on the lift station again to clear the alarms. Councilwoman Kirby inquired if anyone had checked on the possibility of using an algae wheel at the lagoon.

Nuisance properties and junk vehicles were reviewed. The building at 104 North John Street continues to deteriorate.

City Staff – City Clerk Stogdill gave each council member an updated ordinance for their ordinance books at home. Financial reports for July 2024 and fiscal year-ending June 30, 2024 were reviewed with the Council. The clerk has been working on year-end reports and state reports. Mitch Main and Shaun Wubben had nothing to report.

Resident Complaints – Mayor Miller reported on numerous complaints about dogs at 105 South East Street. The city attorney will be contacted to have the dogs legally removed from the city limits. A dog at 401 South East Street killed some chickens at 407 East Charles and dog owner was issued a ticket. Parking problems were reported on South Dewey Street, making it difficult to back out of driveway and navigate the street. "No Parking" signs will be erected.

Pastor Jonathan Hall and Bill Benjamin addressed the Council regarding streets at West View that the church would like for the city to take over ownership. According to courthouse records, the city already owns Michael Street. Council requested a map highlighting the areas to send to the city attorney to start the legal process.

Clerk Stogdill reviewed property insurance deductibles, coverages, and premium rates with the Council. Discussion was held on how to save money on the increasing cost of property insurance. The clerk will inquire about questions the Council had on law enforcement liability coverage.

Clerk Stogdill reviewed the City of Moravia's Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2024 with the Council. Resolution 15-2024 – A resolution to approve the City of Moravia's Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Kramka and seconded by Baty to approve and adopt Resolution 15-2024. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution 15-2024 – A resolution to fix the date for a public hearing on proposal to enter into a Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$553,000 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill, with the date being September 10, 2024, at five o'clock p.m. at Moravia City Hall in the City of Moravia, Iowa. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kirby to approve and adopt Resolution 15-2024. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

Resolution 16-2024 – A Resolution to Transfer Funds Budgeted for Fiscal Year 2025 was introduced by Clerk Stogdill. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Kramka to approve and adopt Resolution 16-2024. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Resolution approved and adopted.

The third reading of Ordinance No. 2024-05 – Urban Chickens was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kramka to approve the third reading of Ordinance No. 2024-05 – Urban Chickens. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried. Motion by Baty and seconded by Martin to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 2024-05 – Urban Chickens. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Ordinance approved and adopted.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-06 – Animal Bites was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Baty and seconded by Kramka to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-06 – Animal Bites. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-07 – Water Connection Charge was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Kirby and seconded by Baty to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-07 – Water Connection Charge. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-08 – Mowing Penalty was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kramka to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-08 – Mowing Penalty. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-09 – Subdivision Regulations was read by Mayor Miller. Motion by Martin and seconded by Kramka to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-09 – Subdivision Regulations. Roll Call Vote: Martin-Aye, Baty-Aye, Kramka-Aye, Kirby-Aye, Deal-Absent. Motion carried.

Council Discussion Items – Councilman Kramka wants to encourage residents to get interested in the City Council and run for office. Kramka also inquired about having a city sticker policy that residents must buy each year and use the proceeds for the streets fund.

Mayor Information and Discussion Items – Mayor Miller stated city workers need to get applicator's license to spray for weeds. They would need to attend a class and take a test. Councilman Baty said they would need to be reimbursed and compensated for getting another license. Mayor Miller reported the burn pile is out of control. It is being used as a dump site. A fence with a locked gate needs to be installed around it and hours of operation posted. A camera needs to be erected to catch offenders. The mayor also reported on a continuous problem with people driving on the grass when renting the community building. Most recently, a light was damaged. The mayor suggests erecting signs in the park banning driving on the grass. Councilman Kramka suggested having dollies that can be rented to haul items from cars to the community building. Roy will be temporarily out of the office beginning August 14.

Motion by Baty and seconded by Kirby to adjourn at 7:31 PM. All Ayes. Motion carried.

/s/ Roy Miller, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Sharla Stogdill, City Clerk/Treasurer