

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Miller and Roden present. Anderson absent.

Citizens Present: Ruth Willius, Tim Casey, Leslie Mackenzie, Marcia Carlisle, John Goodfellow, Wendy Ward, Jennie Johnson, Jim Maher, Deidre Pope, Larry Roden, Gerry Mroska, Dan Malmgren, Jacob Grow, Kirsten Vadheim, Ryan Goodman, Nancy Cosgriff, Larry Martin, Peter Foster

Approval of the Agenda – Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.

Roden - yes

Miller -yes

Pardun -yes

Mills -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations –

Ruth Willius – Is requesting a hall waiver fee for a Spanish conversation group for their Wednesday classes. Miller believes since there is no charge for this class, then he is in favor of waiving the fee.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve the hall waiver fee for Ruth Willius.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Marla – Jim Maher reported the Saturday book pick up is still place. The library is working on redesigning the website and their indoor remodeling project. River Radio is resuming this Saturday. The adult programming will begin next week via zoom, and Marla will be hosting two candidate forums in October. Marla is requesting the annual \$6,000 bequest from the Jordan fund, with an additional \$15,000 to help with the website and renovation costs. Roden believes that is a really good way to use those bequest funds and is in favor.

Roden moved and Miller seconded to approve Marla move ahead with a \$21,000 request to Washington County from the Jordan bequest fund.

*Roden – yes
Pardun – yes
Miller – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska reported on the August meeting. There is a variance request for Tim Casey for which the Commission is recommending approval. The Commission is almost finished with the zoning code review. The hope is to have it complete by year end. There was a request for information on a property for sale at 360 Robert St. Currently that lot is considered unbuildable due to size.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve Planning Case 072920-01, a variance request for Tim and Barb Casey as recommended by the Planning Commission.

*Pardun – yes
Roden – yes
Miller – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Fire and Rescue – There is a new informational sheet for Covid-19 that is on the website, which Miller read in full. There were 22 written warnings on the river in the last month. Miller and Anderson are working with Washington County and the City Attorney to see what course of action the City has to begin handing out citations. The Fire Appreciation dinner will be an outdoor picnic at Dunrovin on September 20th.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. The bids have been received on the Judd Street revitalization project. Dressel Contracting was the low bidder and the engineer is recommending approval of their bid. There is an agreement with MnDOT that the City must enter into for the grant funding, along with a bond finance certification that also needs approval. The hope is to have phase 1 complete by the end of this year with phase 2 starting again in the spring. However, this will depend on weather and the contractor. Deidre Pope, business owner, questioned the schedule as they own a business on Parker St which is part of Phase 1 and fall is their busy season. Pardun noted the City will not know anything until the preconstruction meeting with the contractor. Once the City knows a proposed schedule, all of the businesses will be notified. There will also be weekly meetings that the businesses are welcome to attend once the project begins, along with daily contact with the contractor for any questions or comments from the business owners.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the bond finance certification with MnDOT.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve Resolution 200910-01 approving the grant agreement to State Transportation Fund local road improvement program grant terms and conditions SAP 082-592-001.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Mills -yes

All in favor, Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to award the Judd Street Revitalization project to Dressel Contracting in the base bid amount as \$1,213,161.05 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Personnel - Pardun noted that there are several citizen committees and each of those of committees have Council liaisons. Pardun requested that all committee members please go through that Council person with questions rather than going directly to City staff.

Parks & Rec – Movies in the park request – Anderson is working with Paul Creager on the possibility of hosting movie nights in the park this Burris Park this fall. The cost of each event would be approximately \$1,000 and Anderson is requesting consensus from the Council to fund the cost of at least one of these events. Roden questioned if the grant for the documentary series received by Marla could help to fund this. Mayor Mills suggested tabling this issue to the October meeting when Councilman Anderson was in attendance to answer Council questions.

Trail Enforcement – There have been a few instances of teenagers driving vehicles on the public trails around Jackson Meadow. Miller wanted to make it clear that any instances need to be

reported to Washington County and the City as they are City owned trails. It would then be up to the Council as to whether or not to prosecute. Washington County will report back to the City any future complaints received.

Millsite – No Report.

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reported that the gravel bed trees will be planted in a few weeks. Some of those trees are being planted in the cemetery and city parks. The remainder of the trees will be planted along the road right of way of private homeowners.

The bird migration plantings project is complete.

The committee has put together recommendations for the Ash trees in the City parks. This recommendation includes removing a few trees in the park on the north end of Judd Street as part of the road project, and treating the remaining trees as this is a more cost effective option than removal of the trees. Pardun noted there is only one tree scheduled to be removed as part of the road project and the remaining would be an additional cost. Pardun also noted that when John Goodfellow first discussed the Emerald Ash Borer, his recommendation was to treat the Monfort Dunn ash and leaving the rest of the ash trees. Goodfellow noted that the trees behind the bank will die if not treated and eventually those trees will need to be removed at some point. The committee pointed out that it would be less costly to treat those trees than to remove them. The Council was not comfortable acting on this request right now and will discuss at a later meeting.

Miller also noted that there should be a liability waiver that the private homeowners should sign releasing the City of any maintenance or removal costs on any trees planted in City right of way.

Cemetery – Mayor Mills reported public works will be working on removing buck thorn and trees at the new site.

Water Systems – Pardun reported that the Ravine project will begin on September 19th. This will require mobilization which will begin just north of Elm Street and continue to the Stuga Town homes. There will a lane shift in this area, and the cone placement will make the driveway access for those residents very tight. The hope is for this project to be complete by the second week of October, however it is weather dependent.

Citizen Committee Reports

City Properties – Pardun is working on an idea for organizing learning pods at the elementary school for the children that are currently doing distance learning at home. This would give the children a chance to socialize and learn with other children in a safe environment. The capacity of the school with Covid restrictions is 87 students. The air exchange system at the school is an ionization system which removes 99% of bacteria and germs, including Covid and Pardun believes the CARES funding can be used to upgrade that system. This is still a work in progress, and Pardun will update the Council as there is more information.

Green Step Cities - The committee is working on four different items. The first is the Dark Sky Initiative and the committee is working with an app to help educate the residents on how certain light pollutants affect different species of animals. There is an education pamphlet being created for the care of septic systems, and EV charging stations are also being researched by the committee. Kevin Hein is working with City staff on becoming a part of the B3 Benchmarking system which is required to be a Step 3 and 4.

Holidays/Events – Marine Mills day was a great success.

Roden questioned whether the Council would be interested in the downtown businesses hosting the Enchanted Forest in the Gazebo park over Christmas. The issue last year was that the tree stands were frozen in the ground until spring. Roden would like to leave the trees on the stands until spring when the ground thaws, and would remove the decorations after the Christmas holiday. Pardun would like to see the trees removed if they begin to turn brown.

Cecily Harris will be hosting a pop up artist event at her home on Saturday, September 12th. The church has offered up their lot for parkig.

EDA – No report.

Communication Infrastructure – The website is live and the City is looking for feedback. No action is being taken or considered for a proposed cell tower until the Planning Commission finishes work on consideration of a Wireless Communications ordinance.

Consent Calendar – *Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 8/13/20, 8/20/20, Treasurer’s Report of 8/20, List of Bills for 9/10/20, Zoning Administrators Report-none, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.* Pardun noted corrections for the August Minutes. Under P-1 Station upgrade, “the proposed cost of this option”, should be changed to “the proposed cost of the upgrade”, and then add a period to the sentence ending with generator purchase. Replace the wording “and the balance” with “the cost of the upgrade” and change the motion from “approval of a generator” to “approve the system upgrade at P-1 in the amount of \$137,989”

Roden-yes

Pardun-yes

Miller-yes

Mills – yes

Motion passed unanimously

Old/New Business –

2021 Proposed Budget – Wendy Ward, resident, has submitted a letter requesting an additional \$130,000 to the proposed budget for various items. Miller noted the current levy being proposed

is 25.75% and this addition would put that percentage at 39%. Pardun noted that the City has a process for the budget that it follows each year, and this process is discussed and advertised in advanced for the public. Pardun would like to review those proposed items from Ms. Ward but any addition of funds he would like to see a reduction in another line item to keep the percentage as is. Mayor Mills reviewed those items and gave his opinion as to where they stand:

- Fee for Town Planner – does not think is needed.
- Public Rest Rooms – this has been discussed for many years and the issue continues to be cost and maintenance.
- Master Plan for Trails/Green Space – the City already has a trail plan and recently updated trail map and is working on the Gateway plans.
- Conservation Plan for Cultural Resources – The City has already had a study done on the Village hall and has discussed future plans.

Miller believes all items could have additional discussion at the Truth in Taxation meeting. Wendy Ward thanked the Council for considering her requests and questioned if these items may be considered in the future. Pardun restated that the Council would be willing to discuss this further at the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to set the maximum levy for the 2021 budget at \$1,188,462.70 which represents a 25.75% increase over 2020.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor , motion passed unanimously.

Billy McLaughlin Hall Rental Request – Billy McLaughlin is requesting a reduction in the hall rental fee for his upcoming scheduled concerts. Due to Covid, the capacity for attendance is 25% and so he is proposing a 25% reduction in the fee. The Council felt this was fair.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve Mr. Mclaughlin pay the non resident rate for the October 3rd event, and the resident rate for the remaining Sunday performances as agreed to in the past, along with a 25% reduction in the rental costs for all performances.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

CARES Workshop – Clerk Peterson suggested scheduling a workshop to discuss the remaining use of the CARE funding. A doodle will be sent out to get a date set.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the well bid for the Maintenance shop not to exceed \$24,000.

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Mills – ye s

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

.Long/Short Term Goals – County RD 4 can be removed.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – None

Adjournment . *Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:38pm.*

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk