

## CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nyenhuis at 7:00pm. Pardun, Ward, Anderson, Miller (remote) present.

Citizens: Kitsi Vadheim, Scott Spisak, Jim Maher, Julie Warren. Remote: Dorothy Deetz, Todd Mestad, Dan Willenbring, Gayle Knutson, Kristina Smitten, Matt Anderson (Country Messenger) Thomas Warth, Charlie Borden

Oath of Office – Assistant Clerk Lindgren administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council members Kevin Nyenhuis, John Goodfellow, and Wendy Ward.

Approval of the Agenda – *Anderson moved and Nyenhuis seconded to accept the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

Designate Official Depository – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to designate Charlie Anderson as acting Mayor in Nyenhuis' absence, that the monthly meeting date be the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, that the Country Messenger be the official newspaper, that the Security State Bank of Marine be the official depository, that Johnson and Turner be the official legal firm, that Bolton & Menk be the City Engineer, HKGI be the City Planner and that Robert Rules of Order, Revised, be the official rules of the meeting. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

Appointment of EDA Members – *Anderson moved, Ward seconded, to reappoint Kevin Nyenhuis and Wendy Ward as members of the EDA. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Anderson moved, Miller seconded, to appoint John Goodfellow as a member of the EDA. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

Citizens Considerations – None.

Planning Commission – Planning Chair Scott Spisak reported that the Commission had set its work plan priorities for 2025 as follows: agricultural moratorium; legislative protections for historic buildings in the Riverway; lot area requirements; solar; and zoning code corrections.

Spisak announced that he would not be renewing his term in 2025, and that the Commission had appointed Anna Hagstrom as chair and Kristina Smitten as vice chair. He requested that Council reappoint Kristina Smitten to a 3-year term beginning in January 2025.

*Anderson moved and Ward seconded to reappoint Kristina Smitten as planning commissioner for a term of 3-years beginning January 2025. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

Council members thanked Spisak for outstanding service leading the Commission and leaving a capable team in place.

Council Committee Assignments – Council established by consensus the following assignments:

- Public Safety: Anderson/Miller
- Roads: Goodfellow/Anderson
- Personnel: Nyenhuis/Miller
- Parks & Recreation/Watershed: Ward/Anderson
- Cemetery: Nyenhuis/Ward
- Water/Wastewater: Miller/Goodfellow
- City Properties: Miller/Anderson
- Community Events: Nyenhuis
- Forest Advisory Committee: Goodfellow/Ward
- Mill Site Committee: Ward/Nyenhuis
- Multigenerational Education District Advisory Committee: Miller

Council requested a workshop to discuss whether Parks & Recreation and Watershed should be separated into two items, whether Community Events should be a citizen committee instead of a Council committee, to collectively discuss topics for City Properties liaisons to consider, and discuss methods for sharing information across committees when work affects multiple areas.

Public Safety – Fire Chief Glen Mills reported that there had been 8 calls since the last meeting; 3 of those were fire and 5 were rescue/emergency medical response (EMR). Locations: 5 in Marine; 2 in May Township; 1 in Scandia. Two firefighters have completed firefighter 1, 2, and hazmat training. One member will start EMR training in February. The year-end report will be completed in February. Anderson requested that the annual report contain information on recruitment and retention efforts.

Roads – Isiah Bubany of Bolton & Menk reported that the 2025 street improvement project is out for bid, with the opening scheduled for January 15. Raw data is back for the Red Bridge, showing movement at or below 1/6 inch (.167 inch), effectively negligible. Bolton & Menk will present a more detailed analysis with recommendations within a few months.

Personnel – With Clerk Lynette Peterson's transition to an administrator role, Council reached a consensus to simplify her title to City Administrator rather than City Clerk/Administrator. Anderson pointed out that the Assistant Clerk title would have to change since there is no Clerk. Nyenhuis and Miller will consider options and report back to Council.

Parks & Rec. – Ward and Miller reported on a December meeting with County representatives regarding the Glacial Hills Trail concept plan. City representatives were able to communicate their concerns with the concept plan. The next meeting is to include representatives of May Township.

Cemetery – Nyenhuis reported that inventory of plots is running low. He is continuing to pursue additional ground-penetration radar to clarify whether plots are available in the southwest portion of the cemetery.

Water/Wastewater – No report.

City Properties – Miller reported that, in preparation for the Village Hall remodel set to begin Feb. 17, weekly meetings with the contractor have begun. Goodfellow requested a spreadsheet showing full accounting of costs including finishes, furniture, and moving. Miller said they are planning detailed tracking of costs.

Community Events – No report.

*Nyenhuis moved, Anderson seconded, to recess the City Council meeting. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Nyenhuis moved, Anderson seconded, to open the EDA meeting. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

EDA – Assistant Clerk Lindgren administered the Oath of Office to reappointed EDA members Kevin Nyenhuis and Wendy Ward, and newly appointed member John Goodfellow.

*Anderson moved, Miller seconded, to name as officers of the EDA: President Kevin Nyenhuis, Vice President Charles Anderson, Secretary Bill Miller, Treasurer Wendy Ward, and Assistant Treasurer John Goodfellow. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Nyenhuis moved, Ward seconded, to close the EDA meeting. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Nyenhuis moved, Anderson seconded, to reopen the City Council meeting. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

Forest Advisory – Kitsi Vadheim shared the Forest Advisory Committee’s 2024 accomplishments including 6<sup>th</sup>-year Tree City USA recognition, Arbor Day celebration, 100% survival of trees planted downtown in autumn 2023, tamarack propagation to replace diseased ash, a landscape partnership with MnDOT, use of field inventory tech, and buckthorn removal.

Mill Site Committee – Ward reported that in accordance with Council’s decision to pursue purchasing a parcel within the larger Mill Site property, the parcel was surveyed in December. Next steps are to name the plat and file for planning review. The Mill Site Committee will research and propose a name.

Multi-Generational Education – At its upcoming meeting, the committee will be looking at a

School Forest Initiative Contract. Miller will bring more detailed information to Council after the committee has had a chance to review.

Consent Calendar – Nyenhuis moved, Anderson seconded, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Ward requested further discussion about use of the \$5,000 donation. Council reached a consensus to accept the donation and discuss at the workshop. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business – Discussion of Council policy, rules, and protocol was postponed to the upcoming workshop. Regarding the Board of Review meeting set for April, Councilman Goodfellow volunteered to complete the Board of Appeal and Equalization Training for certification.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None.

Adjournment – Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 8:32pm. Roll call vote: Goodfellow – aye; Anderson – aye; Ward – aye; Miller – aye; Nyenhuis – aye. All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Lindgren, Assistant City Clerk