

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nyenhuis at 7:00pm. Nyenhuis, Goodfellow, Anderson, Ward and Miller present.

Citizens: Glen Mills, Kitzie Vadheim, Mike Lammi, Ross Higgins Julie Warren, Anna Hagstrom, Isiah Bubany, David Snyder, Dorothy Deetz, Mike Tibbetts, John Waugh, Tom Omdahl, Roger Lyle, Matt Anderson, Jake White, Dan Willenbring.

Approval of the Agenda – Nyenhuis will be removing the Brookside Input meeting. Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Citizens Considerations – Mike Lammi was in attendance on behalf of the Marine Village School. The School continues to be in what is called statutory of debt, which mean that they have yet to be running on a profit. The hope is to be out of SOD after next year's school year. Due to a large number of registrations in the kindergarten class, a lottery was held in order to keep the attendance number at 28. The enrollment for the 25-25 year will be 109. The upcoming budget for 25-26 budget will be approved by the board in April. The back funding from the State finally came through in February. The school is currently in arrears with the City for just over \$100,000. They are on track for the current monthly lease payments, and in April will begin paying additional payments to pay down that \$100,000 with the hope of being completely caught up by the end of 2025.

Goodfellow is very optimistic about the future of the school. He also believes the City has been extremely casual about the funding and that the City is carrying a very large amount of debt on the school. Currently the lease agreement is not being held up and he would like to have a workshop to discuss these issues. Nyenhuis believes that this is all valuable information and believes it would be wise for the City to understand its fellowship with this issue. There has also been discussion about potential expansion, however Mike Lammi stated the school is unprepared to consider expansion at this time. Ward requested quarterly updates moving forward.

Zoning Violation Hearing – Mayor Nyenhuis re-opened the violation hearing for 17977 St. Croix Trail North. Since last month, the City had requested a site visit to inspect the contents of the four storage containers by the building inspector and was denied by the property owner. The property owner is not in attendance tonight. Dave Snyder, City Attorney, stated the City has invited correction and voluntary compliance. The most recent communication from the property owner stated he has no plans to correct the violation. The staff recommendation is that the violation continues, unabated, and it is the staff's request that in the absence of any voluntary correction on

the part of the property owner, the City Council declare the property in violation and instruct staff to move forward with abatement by any formal means necessary. Goodfellow noted that the City needs to uphold the regulation of the code, even when they are making hard decisions. He believes that lacking clarity, then you need to use common sense. He used the dictionary to get the definition of equipment and after consideration, he believes the storage containers are structures and not containers and therefore he believes the Council must uphold the recommendation of staff.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded regarding the property located at 17977 St. Croix Trail North concur with the findings and facts conclusions and order that the property be found in violation of the City's zoning code and that the City take all steps necessary to bring formal steps to accomplish the remediation of the zoning violation to bring the property into compliance.

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Ward yes

Goodfellow yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion carries.

Planning Commission – Chairman Hagstrom was in attendance to review the written summary. There will be a public hearing in March for a CUP for a bathroom in an accessory building on Pine Cone Trail. There was also a pre-application for a variance on Robert Street. The agriculture moratorium public hearing will be held in April and presented for Council approval in May. The draft ordinance will be in the newsletter and posted on the website for resident information. Goodfellow questioned if the agricultural ordinance will be presented as a big picture to include cannabis. Hagstrom stated the cannabis moratorium is over and the ordinance approved, so this discussion will be focused on the agriculture piece as a whole. Anderson believes that the Planning Commission does a great job of looking at the code as a whole and also addressing issues as they come up.

Ward commended the PC on looking closely at CUP's and Variances within the river district. Nyenhuis believes the newsletter could be used to help get residents interested in the PC process and potentially get residents interested in future openings. He would also like to have the discussion of lot size and how it relates to the Met Council projection for future expansion.

Hagstrom is also thinking of ways to retain institutional knowledge within the Planning Commission.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reviewed the monthly report. There is a probationary member that will need to be approved by Council. There was a public safety meeting held with Council members Anderson and Council Member Miller and the Fire and Rescue leadership. There will be walk through at an upcoming fire training for Council to attend. Ward commended the amount of information presented in the Minutes and believes a workshop will be required in order to review the many upcoming issues facing the department. Nyenhuis is hesitant to schedule a workshop as he believes the committee is doing a great job managing these items and presenting them to the Council. Miller stated many of the items listed in the report need further work in order to get them into actionable items for Council. Goodfellow would also like to see a workshop happen to discuss the items presented in report. Miller stated there are many items that need to be worked through

into actionable items for the Council and that will take time. Nyenhuis also noted that there is a public safety report monthly with the chief in attendance. He also believes that workshops are taxing on Council members and does not believe something is needed in the near future.

Anderson would like to amend the City Code to change the annual committee meeting from November to quarter three. Administrator Peterson will have an amendment ready to present at the April meeting.

Chief Mills has also been researching the purchase of another fire truck. A proposal was received from Fire Safety USA for a 2025 Fouts Four fire apparatus truck. This truck will help the department to access many of the driveways that are narrow and wooded and the larger trucks have difficulty maneuvering. The cost of the truck will be \$343,000, which the City currently has in the budget. There is no decision yet on what to do with pumper number 2. Keeping it will help to improve the ISO rating, but the department will continue discussions. Goodfellow is concerned that he does not have enough information on the funding. Administrator Peterson reviewed the funds available in the Treasures report dedicated to the public safety for this purchase. Goodfellow questioned if there are other trucks considered for purchase, as this will draw down the reserve funds significantly. Miller noted that the technology that is now available on these vehicles, this vehicle will last the City will need to purchase for a long time. Nyenhuis believes the acquisition of vehicles since Chief Mills has taken over has been very beneficial. Chief Mills thanked Jami Philips for researching this vehicle.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve Chris Vance as a probationary member. All in favor motion carried.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to move forward with the purchase of a 2025 Fouts Four fire truck in the amount of \$343,000. All in favor, motion carried.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the monthly Engineering report. There will be a pre-construction meeting for the 2025 street project sometime in April. City staff will send letters to all residents impacted by the project, including the school. MnDOT will tentatively begin a resurfacing project impacting Highway 95 in 2030.

The Red Bridge structural report was presented. The Engineer would like to do a visual inspection sometime during the upcoming summer and possibly a conditions assessment. Ward would like to define the visual inspection and would like to move forward with a more thorough inspection and what that cost would be. Goodfellow is concerned there is no preventative maintenance plan on the bridge.

Personnel – Administrator Peterson has reviewed State Statue after the change in her title to City Administrator and realized that all cities must have a City Clerk by law. As the City was considering a change in the Assistant clerk's title as well, staff suggested separating the title of City Clerk/Administrator and Treasurer. This would result in Lynette Peterson holding the title of City Clerk/Administrator and Suzanne Damman holding the title of Treasurer.

*Miller moved and Ward seconded to adopt Resolution 031325-01, Ordinance 183 approving the Segregation of duties for the City Clerk and Treasurer.
Goodfellow yes*

*Ward yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Nyenhuis yes
All in favor, motion carried.*

Miller moved and Ward seconded to adopt Resolution 031325-02, Ordinance 184 amending Chapter 1 "General Provision" of the City Code to as presented.

*Goodfellow yes
Ward yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Nyenhuis yes
All in favor, motion carried.*

Miller moved and Ward seconded to adopt Resolution 031325-03, Ordinance 185 amending Chapter 2 "City Administrations" of the City Code as presented.

*Goodfellow yes
Ward yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Nyenhuis yes
All in favor, motion carried.*

Parks & Rec – Ward and Goodfellow presented an update on both the Hollow and North Meadow grant funds. The City will be paying out the \$9,000 it has designated for this project in May.

Goodfellow presented a request for a trails study group. This group would reassess the trail network to evaluate the current state of the trails, opportunities for improvement, maintenance requirements, management strategies and community engagement. Jason Husveth of Critical Connections Ecological Services, very generously mapped out over 50 miles of City trails back in 2016 and has submitted his data to the City Engineer in order to incorporate into GIS mapping. Anderson would like to see an end date given to this study group of December 31, 2025. He would also like to see the parks and rec committee create some type of group that is a non-city designation for a group of volunteers that can take over this, much like Scandia has the Friends of Parks and Trails.

Nyenhuis would like a more structured approach to this group and is requesting a report in April as to who would be on in the study group in order to approve those people to do work on behalf of the City. Goodfellow does not accept requiring Council approval prior to moving forward with this group. The Council advised that is how city is structured and there are rules in place that must be followed. Miller noted that how this study group is laid out, it is clearly a committee or task force to complete work on behalf of the city. The consensus of the Council is for this idea to be brought forth next month with more structure.

Goodfellow presented the before and after photos of the William O'Brien boat launch area. He would like to reach out to the park to make sure that signage is adequate in order to get

information to residents and visitors about the rules and regulations of the river. Miller noted the City has actively reached out to the park in the past with not much action, however he believes it would be worth trying. Miller also questioned enforcement on the river as well. Nyenhuis believes the City should draft a letter and send to the park and NPS. Goodfellow also believes the City should reach out to its State representatives. Anderson would also like the City to be specific on the type of signage is requested. Ward is concerned about an increase in traffic that may affect the town.

Watershed – Miller noted there is an opening on the Watershed Board if there are any interested citizens.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – No report.

City Properties – Administrator Peterson reported that the project is moving along well. Drywall has begun this week and the contractor is anticipating a late April or early May completion date. The City will work with the Restoration Society to schedule an open house for the public.

The contractor has given an estimate of \$1500 for demolition and removal of the old water tank in the basement. The Council consensus was to wait on this as there are no funds allocated for this additional work.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – The committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss public engagement.

Forest Advisory – A written report was submitted, and the Tree City USA designation was awarded again this year.

Mill Site – No report.

Community Events – The Stewards of Marine have given their support to help host the Memorial Day event.

EDA – No report.

Consent Calendar – *Unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of 2/13/25, Treasurer's Report of 2/24, List of Bills for 3/14/24, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.*

Old/New Business – The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1st at 9:00am.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Lynette and Suzanne will be attending a Clerk's conference next Wednesday and Thursday. The office will be posted as closed.

Adjournment –*Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:47pm.*

All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk