

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Isiah Bubany, Gwen/Larry Roden, Jeff/Gail Hudson, Liz Kelly, Anna Hagstrom, Tommy Boesel, Wayne Boener, Gene Wegleitner, Dave Snyder, Heather Logelin, Rosie Peters, Jason Hartman, Tod Mestad, Cecily Harris, Susie Hopper, Roger Lyle, Matt Anderson, Gayle Knutson, Ross Higgins, Jeremy Cho., Annie Moore,

Approval of the Agenda – Ward removed the Watershed from the agenda and Nyenhuis moved the garbage proposals to after the zoning violation update. *Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passed.*

17977 St. Croix Tr N – Dave Snyder reviewed the violation hearing from March. Mr. Snyder stated at the March 13th Council meeting, the Council issued a finding of violation for the 4 storage containers being stored in the front of the property. The property owner was then notified of the decision and gathered that the property owner may wish to appeal. The City was notified two days ago by the property owner that they had two days remaining on their appeal window and they did not wish to either appeal or not appeal at this time. Mr. Snyder stated that given the indifference of the property owners' decision, there will not be an appeal hearing at this meeting. He did advise that he would expect a notice of appeal to appear within the next two days, as in which case the Council could decide to either hold a special meeting or address the appeal at the May Council meeting. Mr. Snyder's recommendation would be to hold the appeal hearing at a regular Council meeting given the number of resources placed on the City to hold a special meeting. Goodfellow questioned the process moving forward. Mr. Snyder stated that there is an administrative process for an applicant to appeal which could allow for Council to consider any additionally produced evidence if presented. Goodfellow requested that any additional information or evidence be presented to Council in advance of the appeal hearing in order to make an informed decision at that time.

Garbage Proposal RFP – Proposals have been received from Waste Management and Gene's Disposal. The residential container prices are very comparable, however there is a larger discrepancy in the commercial dumpster prices, with Waste Management being the least expensive. Gene's Disposal currently does not own a mini packer for the alleys and private roads, however, is willing to purchase one if awarded the contract. The reason for the dumpster price increase is because he would need to purchase new dumpsters to accommodate the new business accounts. Because of the increased purchases, Gene would also be requesting a five-year contract rather than a three year contract. Goodfellow questioned if giving a five year contract would allow him enough time to recoup the costs on the capital expenses, and potentially lower the costs of the dumpsters. The emptying of the dumpsters would be contracted out and therefore the length of the contract would not affect that pricing, but does help to keep the residential costs competitive. Jason Hartman of Waste Management reviewed the proposal for WM. Nyenhuis noted that there are common issues with missed collections regularly. WM has improved trucks that now have cameras that will show the home when the truck pulls up which will show the homes that were

collected. Council will table the proposals until May to allow comment from the commercial business owners and allow for either company to come forward with potential amendments to the contract.

Citizens Considerations – None

Planning Commission – Anna Hagstrom reviewed the March meeting. There was a pre-application for 351 Judd Street for a variance request and for 17977 St. Croix Trail N for an IUP. A public hearing was set for two variance requests for Robert Street, and a CUP recommendation is being brought forth for 675 Pine Cone Trail. The public hearing for the Agricultural ordinance will be held at the April meeting.

Miller moved and Ward seconded to approve Planning Case 20250325-01 for 675 Pine Cone Trail, for Jeff and Gail Hudson for a Conditional Use Permit for a bathroom in an accessory building. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reviewed the monthly report. There were four calls, two fire and two rescue. The Fire Truck will be delivered within the next two or three weeks. Nyenhuis questioned if it could be available to review at the May 1st open house. Chief Mills thanked Councilmember Anderson for the additional workout equipment in the fire hall.

Miller and Anderson presented the final draft of the Summer Public Safety Plan. Nyenhuis stated this is a very robust and extensive plan that will be discussed at a future public input meeting. Ward thanked Council member Anderson for producing this much needed document, however believes public input should be obtained prior to approving. Miller questioned which sections need public input. Ward would rather not address those at this time, but believes there are sections that could be qualified. Nyenhuis believes there could be a public meeting scheduled early, prior to the May Council meeting and again later in the summer. Miller questioned if there are specific areas that Council has questions or concerns about, please address those sections. The parking plan piece would need to move forward in order to get the permanent signs in place. Goodfellow also believes the Council should not approve something that does not have citizen input and also believes the Council has consensus on the parking signs. Nyenhuis stated that all public comments should come from taxpayers however, and not outside interested parties. He also requested that all comments should be sent directly to the City Staff and not sent directly to City Council members.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the Engineers Report. There is a pre-construction meeting for the upcoming street project on Tuesday, April 15th. Notices will be sent to residents shortly after the project schedule is received.

Phase 2 of the drainfield project is set to begin soon. Nyenhuis presented a commendation award from the MPCA for the Wastewater facility.

Additional monitoring scopes for the Red Bridge were brought forth for Council consideration. There were three options presented that the Council can consider for future budget meetings.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – Wayne Boener was in attendance to present an update on the William O'Brien

reconstruction project. Mr. Boener addressed the concerns of the City regarding increased traffic from the boat launch and appropriate signage. The large sign from the National Park Service will be replaced and incorporated into the kiosk signage that William O'Brien is installing. Staff is also aware of users bringing in jet skis or jet boats and will make sure to address safety concerns with those users prior to launching. Goodfellow questioned if the park staff would be able to increase public relations on busy weekends. The park staff is more proactive on those weekends and also include local conservation officers and Washington County as well. Mr. Boener also clarified that there have been no new parking spots added, however it was restriped. Additional improvements that were done in the park addressed accessibility, safety and ADA compliance. Stormwater retention ponds were built, all recreation was moved to the river side with parking on backside, new ADA bathrooms, new picnic shelter, new walking paths and a new canoe and kayak launch.

Trails Assessment Committee Proposal – Goodfellow noted that Bolten Menk has obtained previous trail mapping information from Jason Husveth and has updated the data and created new mapping. Goodfellow noted there is over 50 miles of existing trails within the City and is proposing to create a committee to help assess these trails. The charge would be to evaluate the current state of the trails, potential future opportunities, maintenance, long term management and community engagement. This committee would initially be a no more than 24 month committee, with the hope that it could eventually turn into a volunteer group, much like the Friends of the Trails group that is in Scandia.

Nyenhuis suggested that Goodfellow gauge the interest of residents and potential volunteers prior to the Council approving anything. He is also concerned of the number of responsibilities Goodfellow has taken on since coming on to Council. Ward is in favor of the idea, however she is concerned that the resources to fill these committees may not be there and is concerned with the ability

to sustain the excitement and volunteerism. Miller is concerned about the volunteerism as well, however does believe it is a worthy idea. Goodfellow agreed to pull the idea back in the short term, however will present the idea again in the future.

Watershed – Goodfellow is proposing to create a Millstream Amenities committee to help evaluate opportunities outside and in addition to the Millstream project being worked on by the Watershed District. This could include preservation of cultural resources, walking trails, interpretive signage etc. The committee would consist of no more than one Council member and five citizens. The initial findings will be submitted to Council by the end of 2025. If the Council decides to support the Watershed Districts construction grants, the Millstream committee would support those grants and could potentially apply for additional grants focused on recreational features. If that happens, and the grant is awarded then the committee would then continue on to support the actual construction of the recreational infrastructure.

Goodfellow moved and Nyenhuis seconded to create a Millstream Amenities committee per proposal submitted. All in favor, motion passed.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Miller reported the drainfield project has begun. There have been

several I&I issues identified and in order to help address this, the City will need to replace the camera used to trouble shoot these issues. Tommy Boesel believes a new camera will cost between \$1,000 - \$1,500. This cost is budgeted for, but he just wanted Council to be aware.

City Properties – Administrator Peterson reported that the Village Hall Restoration project is close to completion. The final walk through with the architect will be Thursday, April 17th and there will be an open house for the public scheduled for May 1st from 4pm-6pm.

Peterson also reported that when Council approved the bid from J White Builds in December, the motion unfortunately was made without the inclusion of the builder's contingency of \$10,477.29. She is requesting the Council approve that contingency in order to approve the costs associated with the changes that have occurred during the project.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded the construction contingency in the amount of \$10,477.29 for the J White Builds bid. All in favor, motion passed.

Forest Advisory – A poster was made by the elementary school students thanking the City for the school forest. Goodfellow also noted that a school is proposing to install three 15x10 prairie plots and an arbor structure. Council consensus was to move forward. The school also received a grant to plant cover for migratory birds.

Goodfellow also presented a map of where two tamarack tree forests will be planted. That will be an ongoing conversation.

Mayor Nyenhuis signed the Arbor Day proclamation.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Public engagement is ongoing.

Mill Site – No report.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – No report.

Consent Calendar – Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded the Minutes of 3/13/25, Treasurer's Report of 3/25, List of Bills for 4/10/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.

Old/New Business – Ward has presented a draft Mortar Fireworks ordinance and is requesting the Council and residents review and comment. She would like to revisit at the May meeting.

Brookside Update – May and June music permits were okayed by the public safety committee and are waiting to be signed by the Mayor. Goodfellow questioned if those permits need to be approved by the entire Council rather than just the Mayor. Dave Snyder noted there are instances that Mayoral approval is allowed and this policy is also spelled out in the special event ordinance as well.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Nyenhuis read a statement from Ben Leonard of the MN Historical Society regarding the Marine Mill Site as follows:

“Marine Mill is a Minnesota State Historic site, but it has always been a community place. The City of Marine on St. Croix, and the entire river valley are rooted in the history that happened here. Local residents have cared for the site since its inception. What visitors experience today is due to the passion, care and effort of volunteers and local government who understand its history, and what it means to preserve this important place. You can't tell the history of Minnesota without interpreting Marine Mill.”

Adjournment –Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to adjourn at 8:50pm.
All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Administrator