

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 12, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Isiah Bubany, Gwen/Larry, Kitzie Vadheim, Dan Willenbring, Chris Mowery, Tom Warth, Rosie Peters, Julie Warren, Mark McGinely, Bob Benisheck, Kristina Smitten, Liz Kelly, Mike Isensee, Jennifer Johnson, David Snyder, Robyn Dochterman, Ross Higgins, Scott Spisak, Tracy Mowery, Kelly Jennetta, Roger Lyle, Dorothy Deetz, Mike Tibbetts, Mike Isensee, Jeremy Chacich, Skye Sullivan, Robert Sullivan, Anne Minich, Christian Minich, Tracy Mowery

Approval of the Agenda –Goodfellow requested to add the review of the public input session under public safety. Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passed.

New Council Member Letters of Interest – The Council received two letters of interest for the open Council seat, Dan Willenbring and Chris Mowery. Each candidate was given a chance to introduce themselves and give their backgrounds to the Council.

Mr. Willenbring was the first to answer questions: Goodfellow questioned if Mr. Willenbring's work schedule would be an issue if appointed. Mr. Willenbring stated he can set his travel schedule and usually travels on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Ward questioned what his greatest skill on Council is and what committees he was previously on. Willenbring stated he was on the roads and Village Center committees and is currently a liaison with the Marine Village School. He has worked with park boards, Councils and Planning commissions in various cities around the country and he is very familiar with Marine and believes he is good at handling conflicts. Miller questioned why Willenbring is interested in this position at this time. Willenbring stated an opportunity was presented outside of an election and he thought he would throw his hat in the ring. Miller questioned what he believes the top priorities are in the City at this time. Willenbring believes the Marine Village School is extremely important and keeping the school vital is very important to the City. Maintaining vitality of the local businesses while maintaining the historic values of the City is also very important. In terms of Comprehensive Plan priorities coming up, parking needs to be addressed but does not see housing as an issue as there are few lots left to be built on.

Chris Mowery then answered the same Council questions: He is a school counselor by trade and that allows him to really listen to residents and issues and consider those prior to making decisions. Mowery believes his schedule is very open and as a previous Council member, he knows the time and commitment being a Council member takes. His previous committees served on included public safety, parks and rec and Millsite committee. During that time, he went through the combining the ambulance and fire into a public safety department. He was also part of hiring the new Chief and updating the SOPS. He was a part of the trail mapping for the Jackson Meadow and City trails and was also a key contributor of getting the Mill Site property partnership going with MHS. Mowery stated his schedule is such that there would be no issues with no being available for the position.

Nyenhuis made the point that Mr. Mowery's resume was received one day after the deadline. Mowery stated he submitted the letter after he felt it was at a place he was comfortable submitting

it. Goodfellow believes both candidates identified the school as a high priority, which he appreciates. Miller stated there are two very qualified candidates and that makes the decision very difficult. Miller noted that Mowery did run in the last election and only lost by 22 votes to Council member Ward. Goodfellow believes that Willenbring is very involved in the school and as a Civil Engineer, has expertise regarding the roads as well and therefore would be the better candidate.

Miller moved and Ward seconded to appoint Chris Mowery to the City Council for the term expiring December 31, 2026.

Miller yes

Goodfellow no

Ward no

Nyenhuis no

Motion failed.

Ward moved and Goodfellow seconded to appoint Dan Willenbring as the newest Council member for the term expiring December 31, 2026.

Miller yes

Ward yes

Goodfellow yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Administrator Peterson administered the oath of office to Dan Willenbring.

Acting Mayor – *Goodfellow moved and Nyenhuis seconded to appoint Council member Ward as acting Mayor. All in favor, motion passed.*

Review of Council committees – Willenbring will take public safety with Miller and Roads with Goodfellow. Ward would like to move to city properties. Nyenhuis questioned if Ward would then give up parks and rec, however she said she would not. Ward retracted the want for City properties; however, she would like to be consulted on issues regarding historic preservation. Willenbring will also take the multi-generational committee role with Miller.

Citizens Considerations – None

Planning Commission - Kristina Smitten reviewed the May meeting. There is a public hearing in June for a CUP on Nason Hill Rd for a bathroom in an accessory building. The Commission is also continuing the work plan and lot size items. They are working on amended changes to the code and hope to have those ready by September. Goodfellow questioned where things are at with historical buildings and bringing that forth to the legislature. Smitten stated that process will be mapped out in the near future, and once that is done the Mayor and Administrator will work with the DNR and State to move the process forward.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reviewed the monthly report. The Street dance is this Saturday. There were seven calls last month. The new truck has arrived and the Chief is requesting the Council declare the 2003 Spartan Gladiator as surplus. The administrator will place an ad in the League of

MN Cities bulletin for sale and accept bids. Miller thanked Chief Mills for his forward thinking for the purchase of the new truck. Chief Mills reviewed the mutual aid agreement, which is under the consent calendar. This is an agreement with 32 other cities around the metro. Ward requested a workshop with the Council and public safety within the next month or two. The purpose of the workshop would be to sit down with the department leadership and discuss the day-to-day operations, equipment and future of the department. Willenbring suggested the Council attend a monthly training to get much of that information prior to scheduling a workshop.

Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to declare the 2003 Spartan Gladiator as surplus. All in favor, motion passed.

Outdoor Music – Miller stated the Brookside outdoor music has been going very well and there have been no complaints thus far. Administrator Peterson stated the permits from July through October have been on hold in lieu of receiving more accurate attendance numbers from the Brookside. Nyenhuis noted that the attendance at William O'Brien has not yet ramped up and once it does, things in Marine could change as the traffic increases throughout the summer. This is the reason the Council will hold a second meeting in the fall to review the entire summer season. Goodfellow wanted to address the feedback from residents regarding changing the nights that music is scheduled. Ross Higgins stated the first count for occupancy was Saturday, June 7th. The next two counts will be June 14th and June 27th. He also stated that the music event dates are scheduled in January, so it would be very difficult to make a change now. After further discussion, Miller suggested approving the July and August permits and then revisit how things are working prior to addressing the September and October permits.

Roads – Isiah Bubany was in attendance to review the Engineering report. The 2025 street project is complete with the exception of ditch grading and restoration. There is a request by Valley Paving for project payment number one in the amount of \$376,024.02.

Goodfellow moved and Miller seconded to approve payment #1 to Valley Paving in the amount of \$376,024.02. All in favor, motion passed.

Red Bridge Update – Goodfellow has been doing some additional research on the Red Bridge. The design from 1969 is still the current design today. The rebuild was done with pressure treated red pine, which is good. The piers have moved a substantial distance however, which is concerning. Bolten Menk has placed measurement units on the bridge to begin measuring the movement. He would like to know which Council committee this should now go to in order to continue to pursue this issue. The Council believes this falls under City properties and Ward would like to research how much a conditions assessment would cost. Goodfellow will continue to research the history. Miller stated that the bridge is currently safe to use, and this discussion revolves around future maintenance of the bridge.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – No report.

Watershed – Mike Isensee presented a PowerPoint presentation showing feedback from the last

public meeting on the 30% Mill Stream project meeting in January. There were 25 people in attendance at the meeting and those attendees were polled on several items involved in the project. Miller would like to make sure that stream flow for the fire department is not affected as part of the next phase. He is also concerned about future budget costs. Mr. Isensee stated the next plan revision will have those allocated costs included for both the City and the Watershed. Nyenhuis stated that the Council understands that the removal and rebuild of the bridge will be the responsibility of the City and not the Watershed. The final design should be complete by December of 2025, and the 90% plan meeting should happen in July or August.

Land Swap proposal – Mike Isensee brought forth a suggestion to Council regarding a potential land swap with the St. Croix Chocolate shop. The parcel of land where the chocolate shop shed sits is currently located in the Mill Stream flood plain and the shop does not use that area. The Watershed believes it would be beneficial for the City to obtain that land and remove the shed in order to restore that area, and in return give the chocolate shop a small section of City property to the south, which would allow them to add an addition onto their building. There is a City Street that would need to be vacated as part of the swap as well. Nyenhuis believes the idea is a good one, however he wondered why the chocolate shop couldn't just remove the shed on their own and complete the restoration of that site. He does not see a benefit to the City and questioned what the definition of a "swap". There is no site plan showing what they would like to give up and what piece of City property they are requesting. The Council requested the Chocolate Shop come back with stated boundaries and the staff can review with the City attorney. It was also noted that per State Statute, no street can be vacated by the City if it does not benefit the public.

Millstream Advisory Committee Update – Goodfellow has presented the charter names for this new committee. A list of names for that committee has been presented for approval. Nyenhuis would like to see Burris Park included in the discussions of this committee. He does not believe that area should be heavily signed but rather remain a park/green space.

Miller moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the members as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Tommy Boesel stated there are structures that are failing between Second and Third Streets that are in the process of being replaced.

City Properties - Bob Benisheck was in attendance on behalf of the Stewards of Marine to update the Council on activities and make a few requests. The list of needs they would like the City to address are as follows:

- Security System at the Stonehouse Museum not functioning properly and there is no security at the Log Cabin.
- Soffit repairs at needed at the Museum due to animals.
- Exterior of the Log Cabin needs staining.
- They would like to see a picnic bench moved closer to the Log Cabin

- A porta potty is being requested near the Log Cabin

Council stated there is a porta potty and picnic table near the log cabin already. Council will look at the repairs and staining as part of the upcoming budget discussions. The security system at the museum can be looked at by staff.

Community Events - July 4th events are being prepared for.

Mayor Nyenhuis closed the regular Council meeting and opened the EDA meeting at 9:13pm.

EDA – Dan Willenbring was approved as a new EDA member.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve Dan Willenbring as an EDA member and appointed as the assistant treasurer.

Miller yes

Ward yes

Goodfellow yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor motion passed.

Goodfellow has met with Mike Lammi, Gerry Glomb and Sarah Stivland to discuss several issues, including the change of board members. The EDA will set a time prior to the July Council meeting to hold a workshop and discuss the specifics.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to close the EDA meeting at 9:20pm. All in favor, motion passed.

Forest Advisory – The adopt a tree program is up and running with both citizens and businesses. Kirsten Vadheim and Charlie Bordan have gone through a training program to become official tree stewards. The Marine Village school will be holding an event on June 21st.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – The next step is to engage the planner to discuss the master plan and public engagement. The committee is looking for a new member as a current member has been unable to attend the meetings. The group is considering a survey that will go out with the fall newsletter.

Mill Site – No report.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded the Minutes of 5/8/25, 5/22/25, Treasurer's Report of 5/25, List of Bills for 6/12/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Regional Fire Service Agreement, Annual Lease Memorandum. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business –

Fireworks/Mortar Draft Ordinance - Ward presented a draft ordinance addressing fireworks and mortars. Willenbring questioned Section 2, the possession of these fireworks and if someone was

transporting those or holding those in their garage, are they in violation of this ordinance? The City Attorney stated that State Statute already prohibits possession and the best protection the City has is to work with local law enforcement in advance of any event.

Ward moved and Miller seconded to adopt Resolution No. 061225-01, Ordinance No. 189, prohibiting the possession, sale, and use of high aerial, mortar launched fireworks providing penalties for violations and addressing public safety concerns. All in favor, motion passed.

Budget and Finance Reporting and Management – Goodfellow believes that the quarterly budget information can be managed and presented in a more efficient manner. The City Administrator will meet with Nyenhuis and Goodfellow to discuss this in more detail.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – William O'Brien held a grand opening of their new facilities of which Mayor Nyenhuis, Council member Goodfellow and City Administrator Peterson attended.

Adjournment – Willenbring moved and Nyenhuis seconded to adjourn at 9:45pm.

All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Administrator