

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 9, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Isiah Bubany, Gwen/Larry Roden, Susie Hopper, Dave Snyder, Kitsi Vadheim, Matt Anderson, Curt Moe, Ryan Marsel, Kristina Smitten, Todd Mestad, Liz Kelly.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis moved and Willenbring seconded to removed Liz Kelly from Citizens considerations and requested to add Change order #2 under Roads.*

Miller yes

Willenbring yes

Goodfellow yes

Ward yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Citizens Considerations – Susie Hopper was in attendance to report on the dog park. The park was open from August 6th through September 30th. Ms. Hopper noted that the opening day hosted 36 people and 48 dogs. She stated there were no issues with people not picking up after their dogs and users did an excellent job keeping the area clean. There were over 70 people who signed in as users from a variety of cities. Willenbring questioned if the park was popular because of the location or could it be located anywhere within the City. Ms. Hopper stated people loved the park due to the shade and sun and central location but she believes it could be successful in another location as well. Goodfellow questioned if the overall size was okay. Ms. Hopper noted the small dog section was not highly used but the larger dog area was the most popular. Goodfellow is questioning how much space would be needed for this to be a success. Ms. Hopper does not think it needs to be as big as it was. The City provided a hot dog party on the last day of the park, which was also a big success.

Planning Commission - Kristina Smitten was in attendance to review the September meeting. There is a CUP request for a driveway at 601 6th Street for which the Planning Commission is recommending approval. The Commission also discussed the screening for the cell tower. The recommendation was to use slats in the fence. The Commission continues to review solar, zoning code review and lot sizes. There are also currently two vacancies for the Commission. Goodfellow questioned if the Commission has worked with the Watershed on aligning the City codes with the Watershed. Smitten stated that is not listed in the Commission's current work plan but can certainly consider that for next year. Ward questioned if there were any residents who had concerns with the proposed driveway. Smitten did not recall any concerns regarding the driveway specifically.

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to approve Planning Case 20250930-01 for a Conditional Use Permit for a driveway over 200 ft. at 601 Sixth St for Aaron Nesser and Heidi VanDixhorn-Nesser.

Miller yes

Willenbring yes

Goodfellow yes
Ward yes
Nyenhuis yes
All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there are two members have started EMR classes. The Fire prevention open house was a big success.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the Engineers report. The Washington County CIP plan was sent out with comments needing to be submitted by November 7th. Mr. Bubany has submitted his comments to the Council for review. Goodfellow noted that the 2026 Street project may be delayed due to the construction schedules of new homes being built on Chestnut. Ward questioned if public works have attended the smart salting training classes. Tommy Boesel stated he has taken the training and noted that Marine uses less salt over the entire season than the County uses in one snow event. Bolton Menk is recommending approval of the final payment to Valley Paving for the 2025 street project and approve change order #2.

Willenbring moved to approve the final payment to Valley Paving in the amount of \$6002.27 along with change order #2 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Miller yes
Willenbring yes
Goodfellow yes
Ward yes
Nyenhuis yes
All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel – Assistant Clerk Lindgren has had her baby and both mom and baby are doing well. Kitsi Vadheim questioned if the City has a personnel policy addressing maternity leave. Administrator Peterson stated they do not, however the State of MN will have a paid leave policy taking effect in January and the City does offer short and long term disability as well.

Parks & Rec – Ward stated that she and Goodfellow continue to meet with Washington County to discuss the proposed Glacial Hills trail. Nyenhuis does not believe there has been good communication with the Council and residents. The last time Washington County presented this plan to the Council, Nyenhuis requested a meeting be held for the public to review the plan and receive community feedback which was not done. Ward and Goodfellow continue to meet with Washington County to discuss their concerns with the proposal and get better clarity of the issues this trail presents. Goodfellow stated that after the most recent meeting, there were issues with a change in the proposed alignment. He believes there is now enough clarity on the proposal to be able to host a resident meeting. Willenbring questioned why the County would not hold this meeting to present to the residents rather than the City. Nyenhuis noted that the Council requested the City hold their own meeting of which the County would be invited to attend, however they will not be the presenters. The Administrator will work with Council to schedule a date for that listening session.

Ryan Marcel, 280 Judd Street, noted the Council seems firm on discussing a dog park on a more permanent basis but was wondering if the residents would be able to give their opinion as well. Nyenhuis noted that when that happens, the item will be on the agenda for discussion at which time residents would be able to speak. In addition, the item may end up being discussed by the Planning Commission as well.

Watershed – Nyenhuis questioned if the Watershed has done all of the maintenance on the rain gardens. He feels like the garden on Maple Street and Fifth Street has not been maintained. Ward will follow up with the Watershed.

Goodfellow attended a presentation regarding the 2026 Watershed district budget and was informed that there is no increase for next year.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – No report.

City Properties - Tommy Boesel reported the City was able to get Bell Pole to come out and take a look at the 40 acres by the maintenance shop to assess the storm damage. They believe they would be able to get the dead fall cleaned out at no cost to the City if the work is done soon. Depending on what they find, the City may be able to profit from the wood that is retained. Willenbring believes this would be a big benefit to the City as this type of clean up could be very costly if the City waits. Goodfellow noted this is called salvage logging. Nyenhuis believes that it is not good practice for a Council to present a motion on a subject that was not on the agenda and publicly noticed. He believes the Council could give consensus to move forward with obtaining a report from a forester for a proposal for the cleanup. Goodfellow is unwilling to support this idea without more information. The majority of the Council gave consensus for Mr. Boesel to engage with Bell Pole on working to find a company to do the work and then present a formal proposal for Council to act on in November.

Community Events - The enchanting forest will happen again this year and Gwen Roden will be the contact person.

EDA – No report.

Forest Advisory – The deer fence will go up this weekend. There was a large buckthorn eradication event in Burriss park, which went very well. Goodfellow noted that the Champion black willow has unfortunately died and was removed from the property.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – There will be an open house on October 25th upstairs of the Village Hall. A survey has been sent to residents via the garbage bill and in the newsletter asking residents how they would like to see the property/school building to be used in the future. Goodfellow believes the committee should be thinking of worse case scenarios as well. Miller noted that this is a future expansion plan to see if there are ideas of other uses for the building and property. Kitsi Vadheim has a concern that the presentation does not include the scenario that the school may fail to exist at some point.

Millstream Advisory Committee – Goodfellow reported that the committee has reviewed the 90% plan with the Watershed district, which will be presented to Council in November. Once the Council approves the plan, the Watershed will move forward with a grant application. If the grant is awarded, the construction would occur in two years.

Consent Calendar – Nyenhuis moved and Willenbring seconded the Minutes of 9/11/25, Treasurer's Report of 9/25, List of Bills for 10/9/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.

Miller yes

Willenbring yes

Goodfellow yes

Ward yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Ward questioned if Charlie Anderson, who had previously helped to take care of the rink, would be helping again this year. Administrator Peterson noted the fire department and public works handles the flooding and there are many adult volunteers that will continue to be available.

Old/New Business – Tommy Boesel noted that NWI has offered to donate two trees to the City. The Council thanked NWI and will work with public works on choosing appropriate locations.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Ward questioned the lease payments for the cell tower. The City received the first payment this month and the tower should be complete and operational the first week of November.

Adjournment – Willenbring moved and Nyenhuis seconded to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Miller yes

Willenbring yes

Goodfellow yes

Ward yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Administrator