

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 13, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Kitzie Vadheim, Isiah Bubany, Gwen and Larry Roden, Kristina and Bill Smitten, Scott Spisak, Cecily Harris, Rob Powell, Mike Tibbets, Tod Mestad, Mike Isensee.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis removed the employee recognition. Goodfellow would like to move the Millstream committee report under the Watershed. Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve the agenda as amended.*

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

Nyenhuis yes

Willenbring yes

Miller yes

Goodfellow yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Citizens Considerations – Kristina Smitten was in attendance as a citizen and not as a Planning Commission member. Ms. Smitten states she is not here to say she is either for or against the trail, however she is concerned about the process and how the City has treated its partners and is imploring the Council to be responsive to the County’s request to consider conceptual approval in order to allow the County to move forward.

She reviewed the timeline of the trail since it was first brought to the City’s attention back in 2023. She stated the County is only looking for support for the conceptional design. Once they have that, then the County can move forward and address the concerns brought forth by the City.

Mayor Nyenhuis asked the Council to take note of Ms. Smitten’s comments for when this issue is discussed later in the agenda.

Planning Commission – No action items at the October meeting. The Commission will be holding a workshop in early December to begin discussions on the Comprehensive Plan. The plan is hold a joint workshop with the Council and Commission sometime in January.

Public Safety – Chief Mills stated there were six calls last month. The truck is listed on auction until mid December.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineering report. The 2026 Street project package was sent to Council for review. The 360 Robert St sewer project is going very well and the directional boring was successful. Comments have been submitted on behalf of the City on the County CIP. Goodfellow questioned the reference of Atlas 15 under the Floodplain assessment. Isiah noted that is the most recent software used for the modeling and the Watershed District will be discussing the use of the updated software at an upcoming board meeting.

Personnel – Assistant Clerk Lindgren will be back from maternity leave on Monday.

Parks & Rec – Goodfellow reviewed the timeline of the trail project. The City has been involved in multiple meetings with the County and Commissioner Miron. Goodfellow reviewed a table he provided laying out the number of meetings held thus far with the County, along with a graphic showing the process. The County is looking for a letter of support from the City. Currently Hugo has provided that letter and May Township has stated they will not provide that letter, so Goodfellow does not believe that Marine is holding up the process of moving forward. He believes there are still some serious issues that affect the City that need to be addressed. These include a concern about the overall impact on the City, the trail alignment and the route under the tunnel and down Broadway. The County is looking for a letter of support from the City, even if that means there are contingencies included. Miller noted that Commissioner Miron has been very involved in the process and understands the concerns of the City. Another issue concerns Council member Miller is that the maintenance costs of the trail moving forward will fall on the shoulders of the City. Goodfellow noted that the County will maintain the surface of the trail and mow the area one time a year.

Nyenhuis believes there are several current and future concerns that we will continue to address. His concern is the process, especially since the Comprehensive Plan states the City will support this trail. He is also concerned that a City position on the trail was inserted on City letterhead and submitted to the County from the City engineer without the Council coming to conclusion on this issue. There is concern of overall communication on this issue.

Ward stated that no time has the City dictated the process because there is no timeline. The County is respectful that all of difficulties, both geographically and structurally, lie in Marine. She also believes there is no question that the City supports all trails, including the Glacial Hills trail. The City will be holding a city input meeting however the County has stated they do not want the City using their materials nor do they want the City officials hosting the meeting. Ward stated she and Goodfellow believe it is important that the citizens have a chance to speak on this. Miller thanked Ward for setting the citizen meeting and believes the city should send the letter of support. He is also wondering why May Township will not participate in the discussion and what are the underlying issues they have.

The public input session will be held on Monday, November 24th at 5:00pm. Goodfellow stated they will draft a letter based upon the comments received at the input session for Council to consider at the December meeting.

Willenbring noted this is a decade long process and the issues that we have today are not the same issues we have in the future. He agrees there should be caveats as part of the letter of the support, however he is disappointed that it has taken the Council this long to take action. He noted this is a County trail, not a City trail and believes the City should take this opportunity to provide positive feedback and work with the County.

Watershed – Mike Isensee was in attendance to present the Millstream 90% plan. He stated the purpose of this meeting is to have the Council weigh in on the plan so the Watershed can move forward on modeling for the grant application. There have been two public tours and a meeting with the fire chief, both which have gone well. There are three areas of the project. The first will be a vegetation only area, concentrating on vegetative management and the removal of the creosote timbers. The second area is In-stream structure and bank habitat restoration. This will focus on floodplain reconnection, stream habitat restoration and stream segment connections.

The final area is the stream channel restoration. This will involve the removal of the low head dam, pond dredge materials and restoration of the stream channel.

The Millstream committee has included concept design ideas for that area to coincide with the Watershed project. Willenbring stated it is nice to see some of the concepts that were first introduced by the Village Center committee be included.

Mike Tibbets noted that the plan is a realignment of the stream. He is opposed to this project and believes the stream health is fine. He believes the stream is naturally returning to its natural state. He also noted that this plan removes history by removing the bridges as well. Goodfellow noted there are bridges in the amenities design and that the Marine Village School science teacher will be using the stream as a learning tool for the students. Nyenhuis noted the Council will listen to all voices, however the Council held a listening session and there was voting and there was support for this project.

Goodfellow move and Willenbring seconded to accept the alignment proposed allowing the Watershed to proceed to the 90% plan.

Nyenhuis yes

Willenbring yes

Miller yes

Goodfellow yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – No report.

City Properties – A contract was presented with Bell Pole for the Timber Sale agreement to address the storm damage in the 40 acre parcel by the public works facility. Willenbring and Miller are in support of the contract however Willenbring would like to add language that only downed trees are harvested and that the standing trees be marked, whether that be by public works or Council member Goodfellow. Administrator Peterson is concerned that given the size of the area, that could take a considerable amount of time.

Nyenhuis noted there was discussion last month about this issue and was left in the hands of the City properties committees. Goodfellow believes the City would be making a grave mistake by accepting the contract as presented. He is concerned that the City did not go out for bid and believes the City should defer the conversation until the next meeting and made a motion as such. Nyenhuis does not believe a motion is necessary. He noted that city properties is under Willenbring and Miller, however this issue could also fall under parks and rec. He believes Goodfellow has valuable input but believes the City needs to decide what the goal and objectives are for this property.

Goodfellow does not understand why the Council is in such a hurry and noted that this timber is not going to degrade over the winter and believes his concerns should be addressed before taking action. Ward believes this is a sloppy contract and believes the City should takes its time before taking action. She supports the project, however agrees with Goodfellow that the contract be deferred until the language is cleaned up.

Nyenhuis does not believe the Councils comments should reflect poorly on Bell Pole as they are a respected company. In addition, he hopes that whatever action is taken tonight that Bell Pole

continues to reach out to its community of loggers to work on this project.

Willenbring has a concern that having Bell Pole do this work, that is saving the City a significant amount of money and if the City delays this much longer, there is risk that we could lose the opportunity.

Goodfellow moved and Ward seconded to postpone action on this contract until the Council does a more thorough job of investigating and tightening up the terms and conditions the adequately reflect the City's position.

Ward yes

Miller yes

Willenbring nay

Nyenhuis yes

Goodfellow yes

Motion passed

Gwen Roden, resident, the trees for the enchanted forest have been delivered and the decoration day is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Willenbring commended Lisa White for all of the work she put into consolidating the information from the open house. There were approximately 45 people who attended. The information will be submitted to the City planner to create a master plan with the hope of having the master plan completed by March 1st of 2026. This plan could then be incorporated into the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update.

Forest Advisory – Kitsie Vadheim reported on the Tamarack planting event. The fencing that was used for the dog park has been repurposed and used to protect the Tamaracks. There are now two empty gravel beds and are looking for options moving forward for planting. Two options were discussed: The first option is for the committee to buy and plant trees to be planted only on City property. The second option would be to plant trees for use on private property. Scandia has planted trees and then allowed residents to purchase those trees for planting on their property. Miller questioned if locations on City property have been identified. Ward believes there are plenty of spaces on public property to plant trees, however the option of planting on private property is being suggested due to the high loss of trees from the storm earlier this year.

Discussion was held as to the potential issues with allowing planting within public right of way. Administrator Peterson is concerned that the planting on private property will create more maintenance and removal costs for the City. It was noted that the City is drafting an ordinance to specifically address this issue because of the number of “private trees” that were in City right of way and therefore the City was responsible to remove. Nyenhuis believes there are still plenty of public spaces that could use trees now, and the private property could be a discussion in another year or so.

Mill Site – No additional report.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – Willenbring reported that the City Administrator has reviewed the lease numbers and

noted a slight change, which the school has agreed with and the lease amendment has since been signed by both parties.

Mill Site Committee –

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 10/9/25, 11/3/25, EDA Minutes, Treasurer’s Report of 10/25, List of Bills for 11/13/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.*

Old/New Business – The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to declare the plow surplus.

Cecily Harris noted that it is very difficult for the audience to hear both in the hall and online.

Adjournment – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:30pm.*

Ward yes

Miller yes

Willenbring yes

Nyenhuis yes

Goodfellow yes

Motion passed

All in favor, motion passed

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk