

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 11, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Kitzie Vadheim, Isiah Bubany, Larry Roden, Rob Powell, Jody Nyenhuis, Mike Tibbets, Julie Warren, Kristina Smitten. Remote – Charlie Borden, Matt Anderson, Todd Mestad, Dorothy Deetz, Curt Moe, Liz Kelly, Loralee DiLorenzo, Annie Minich, Gayle Knutson, Jim Maher

Approval of the Agenda.- *Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations – Katy Kalt, member of the Marine Village School Board, was in attendance to let the Council know about a grant opportunity through Xcel Energy and the MN Wild. The grant is for \$10,000 and she would like to apply for the grant to help replace the lighting and/or boards at the ice rink. She also questioned if there may be resources either at the City or in the community that would be willing to help with the grant process. Goodfellow questioned if there is any in-kind of match that the City would need to contribute to. Ms. Kalt stated there is not. The grant opens at the beginning of January and closes at the end of February with funds distributed 60 days later. Nyenhuis noted this would be a seed to a bigger capital campaign. There is currently \$23,000 in the parks and rec reserve funds, so there would be an opportunity for a in-kind match or contribution from the City. He believes that the City should help with the application process and the consensus is for Ms. Kalt to move forward with the grant application. Ward would like Ms. Kalt to come back in January with additional information and suggested Council members Willenbring or Miller would be a great resource. Goodfellow requested those specifics be presented at the January meeting.

Julie Warren, 17500 St. Croix Trail N, stated she believes there would be a lot of value of engaging local citizens in supporting efforts to upgrade the rink.

Planning Commission – Kristina Smitten reported on the November meeting. There will be a public hearing at the end of January for zoning amendments. There was a workshop on December 8th to discuss the Comprehensive Plan update. Their recommendation is to have HKGI lead the effort with Bolton Menk in a supporting role. They would like to begin discussions at a Council/Planning Commission joint workshop in January. Goodfellow likes the idea of using HKGI with Bolton Menk as a hybrid model, however he noted that Leslie Brandt would be working on the plan update on behalf of Bolton Menk and he would like to the City lean on her more heavily for the climate change section. Nyenhuis is a little concerned about the \$60,000 - \$80,000 cost given by HKGI and noted that the Planning Commission has stated they can take on some of the responsibilities but believes that needs to be discussed further at the January workshop. There was a question on budget numbers as well. Administrator Peterson noted that the fiscal disparity money for 2025 was to be allocated for the Comp Plan update and the same could be for 2026, which would be approximately \$60,000.

Miller moved and Goodfellow seconded to re-appoint Anna Hagstrom to the Planning Commission

for an additional three year term. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills stated there were seven calls last month– 7 in Marine and 3 in May Township. The pumper truck was sold at auction for \$8500.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineering report. The sewer project on Robert Street has been postponed to 2026 due to not being able to blacktop this late in the year. The plans and specs have been prepared for the 2026 street project. Mr. Bubany is looking for approval of the plans and specs and approval to authorize the solicitation of quotes.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the plans and specs prepared by Bolton Menk for the 2026 Street Project and authorize the solicitation of quotes. All in favor, motion passed.

Mike Tibbets, resident, reviewed the road project done eight years ago that included the cemetery road cost the City \$27,000 and he is wondering why a road that is the same length and similar in structure costing four times that amount. Goodfellow noted that we do not know whether the condition of the roads are the same, but regardless the City and the Engineer are following the road standards of today. Mayor Nyenhuis stated that these comments are best sent through the City office in advance of the meeting so the Council has time to respond. Goodfellow noted that the City has a qualified engineer making the recommendation and he trusts the opinion of the engineer.

Personnel – Mayor Nyenhuis stated that public works lead, Tommy Boesel, has recently celebrated 20 years with the City in November. He read a proclamation and presented a plaque to Mr. Boesel on behalf of the City Council and residents.

MN Paid Leave – The State has started a paid leave program beginning in January of 2026. Each employer must decide whether to cover the full cost of the monthly premium or split the cost 50/50. Nyenhuis has seen many employers choosing the 50/50 option, however many cities are covering the deduction 100% for cities that do not offer health insurance. Miller suggested the City cover 100% for 2026 and then have the City begin a 50/50 split in 2027. Goodfellow noted that the City does not have health benefits, however does offer PTO. He agrees with Council member Miller that the City cover the 100% deduction for the first year. After further discussion:

Miller moved to have a transition period and that the City cover the deduction 100% for 2026 and have the employer split 50/50 in 2027.

Miller, Ward and Goodfellow yes, Nyenhuis no. Motion passed.

Parks & Rec – Ward reviewed the Glacial Hills Regional Trail issue. The City did hold a public input session and there were approximately 20 people in attendance. She stated her and Council member Goodfellow's position has not changed and has put forth a draft letter of support for Washington County. The County is looking for this letter of support from Marine, Hugo and May Township. Goodfellow stated there were parallel letters written by himself and Ward. Goodfellow noted his letter was less specific than the letter put forth by Council member Ward. He also noted that the City of Hugo has not yet submitted a letter and May Township has refused to submit a letter of support, so he does not feel that this is something that needs to be approved tonight. Nyenhuis noted that there was discussion last month and written comments from

Councilmember Willenbring. He agreed with Willenbring that the comments submitted from the input meeting do not align with the draft letter, and believes there is time to rework the letter. He does not believe the specificity included in the letter is needed. He does not believe the letter is ready to be sent and suggested additional Council comments be sent to Ward and Goodfellow as well. Miller suggested Goodfellow and Ward reach out to both Hugo and May Township to discuss their opinions on the proposed trail. Goodfellow does not agree with the suggestion in the draft letter that the City turn the planning over to the experts. He stated he absolutely does not agree with that statement. The consensus was to continue to work on the draft.

Bell Pole Contract - Goodfellow has contacted Bell Pole and discussed a more detailed scope of the area to be logged. There has also been discussion of additional pine stands that could be included in the overall scope, including areas in the Hollow. The revised contract is 90% complete and the final will be brought forth in January or February.

Watershed – Goodfellow spoke with Mike Isensee of the Watershed District about when he will be back to update the Council on the grant. Isensee noted the timeline will either be in March or September depending on when the plan is complete.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – No report.

City Properties – The cell tower should be up and operational by the end of December. Vinco is in negotiations with Verizon as a co-locator.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Lisa White has submitted the committee's plan to the City Planner.

Forest Advisory – The committee is working on the Tree City USA application. A year end review summary will be presented in January.

Mill Site – There was a committee meeting last week to discuss the overall plan that is to be presented to the Council for the property around the Millstream area.

Community Events – The enchanted forest event was a success.

EDA – Willenbring submitted a written report which was included in the packet.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/13/25, Treasurer's Report of 11/25, List of Bills for 12/11/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, liquor license for Brookside Bar and Grill, Surf Yogurt Shop, and Pete's Pizza, Tobacco license renewal for the Marine General Store for 2026 and the Marine Library MOU. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business – Nyenhuis moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve the 2026 levy at \$1,177,006.13 which represents a 4.43% increase over 2025. All in favor, motion passed.

Citizen of the Year – Mayor Nyenhuis stated there were nominations for both Charlotte Wilcox for her endless hours of volunteerism for the City and the Marine Village School, and Mike Lammi for his work in helping to keep the Marine Village School open. The suggestion was to approve both nominees. Miller noted that there have been years when there was no citizen of the year selected and years when there were two selected. Goodfellow noted that the school would not be running today with Mike Lammi and the volunteerism of Charlotte. Nyenhuis suggested printing out of the nomination letters for the public to read at the City office. He also noted that neither Mike Lammi nor Charlotte are seekers of notoriety and some like to stay in the background, and suggested the residents keep that in mind.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded that the City of Marine recognize both Mike Lammi and Charlotte Wilcox as the 2025 citizens of the year. All in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – No report.

Adjournment – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:32pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk