

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, October 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Miller, Anderson, Roden Present

Citizens Present: Gerry Mrosla, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Larry Roden, Dan Malmgren, Milo Horak, Nancy Cosgriff, Ryan Goodman, Jennifer Johnson, Mary Burke, Brigid Sandager, Dorothy Deetz, Larry Martin, Wendy Ward

*Approval of the Agenda – Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.*

*Roden - yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Miller -yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Mills -yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Citizens Considerations – Miller called a point of order for the purpose of explaining to the audience the appropriate procedure for being called upon to talk.

Mary Jo Van Dell – Hall Rental Request – Ms. Van Dell was not in attendance and therefore the Council did not act on this request.

Brigid Sandager – Fence Encroachment Request – Mrs. Sandager was in attendance to discuss a request to place a fence on the north end of Cherry Street, which is a non-vacated street. Several months ago, the Sandagers requested a vacation of Cherry Street due to a garage having been built in the street right of way, however the Council opted to offer an encroachment agreement instead. The Sandagers are selling their home and have an offer contingent upon the ability to place a picket fence on Cherry Street within the City right of way. The Council could not approve the placement of a fence without seeing a plan, however was willing to say that they are in favor of the idea however would need to see the exact plan for a formal approval. Clerk Peterson will send a copy of these Minutes to the Sandagers to forward to the potential buyers.

Rosabell Lot Line Adjustment – Milo Horak of Landmark Surveying was in attendance to discuss a request by the owners of the lots for sale in the Rosabell addition and the new owners of 725 Broadway Street to adjust some of the lot lines. Mr. Horak presented the survey to show each of the proposed adjustments. There is one lot line issue with 705 and 725 Broadway Street, as the platted lot lines do not match up with the surveyed lot lines. The homeowners need to determine how to handle this, however attorney fees to resolve an issue like this typically runs \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Wendy Ward questioned if the survey could be emailed or posted on the website. Mr. Horak stated there could be copywrite issues if the survey is posted on line. Clerk Peterson stated the survey is

available at the City offices for public review.

After reviewing the proposed lot line changes;

*Roden moved and Anderson seconded to approve the proposed lot line adjustment for Mary Petersen as drafted by Landmark Surveying dated September 8, 2020.*

*Roden – yes*

*Anderson – yes*

*Miller – abstain*

*Pardun – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Marla – Jim Maher reported on the recent activities. Two City Council candidate forums, one for Scandia and one for Marine, were conducted via Zoom this past Tuesday, and the Mayor forum will be held next Tuesday. The library remodel is almost complete. A book drop was built into the door. River Radio has resumed and they will be holding live election night coverage on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla updated the Council on the September meeting. It was a short meeting due to the Presidential debate. The Commission is still working on the zoning codes, however this process has been taking a little longer than anticipated. The Commission has been working on inconsistencies with the Comp plan rather than inconsistencies within the individual zoning districts, which was the original charge. The Commission is looking for direction from the Council as to how to move forward. Pardun would like to see the basics updated and then discuss the deeper issues with the Comp plan at the beginning of 2021.

The wireless communications committee has been looking into consultants to help with the ordinance. There is no estimate on a cost for this at this time. The League of MN Cities also has resources to help with writing ordinances. Anderson believes the League may give an ordinance that is too boilerplate for this situation, being it's in the St. Croix Valley and the scenic river is a factor. He believes a third-party consultant would be a good idea, but would like to make sure they have all of the information that has been passed along by the communications committee. Chairman Mrosla wanted to make it clear that the Planning Commission is not looking for cell tower sites, they are only creating a communications ordinance at this time.

Fire and Rescue – Anderson reported that there was a fatal crash on Olinda and County Rd 4 that our fire and rescue members attended, and wanted to recognize the toll a situation like that can take on the vounteers and commends their professionalism. Miller also commended Chief Malmgren and the members.

Grant Request- There is an opportunity to purchase a commercial washer and dryer for the

turnout gear and the department has an opportunity to obtain a grant to cover 90% of the total cost, which is approximately \$2,000.

Chief Malmgren reported the department recently attempted to pull water from the dry hydrant on the upper Mill pond, however the pond is very silted in and they were not able to pull water efficiently. Jason Crotty noted the soils have been tested and could be dredged without any environmental concerns. The issue is the cost and budgeting for this item and whether the Council would like to dredge the entire pond or just the area around the dry hydrant. Pardun noted that the DNR is ultimately in control of that pond, and the City would need a very compelling argument in order to get permission to dredge. These arguments would be public safety and a better environment for the trout during the winter months. The dredging is part of the overall stormwater budget, however with the projects happening this year, most of that budget will be used up. Anderson is not convinced that dredging is the answer. Currently the main dredging area is at the lower Mill Pond and the other viable option is Scandia. The current water cisterns are not viable due to the time it takes to fill. Miller noted that the area behind the gas station is another option. Chief Malmgren would like to either dredge that upper pond or consider abandoning that location all together.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the grant request for a washer and dryer for the fire and rescue department.*

*Roden - yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Miller - yes*

*Pardun - yes*

*Mills -yes*

*All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. Washington County is in the last phase of the public engagement portion of the bicycle and pedestrian plan. The Village center revitalization project has begun, and if the weather continues, curb and gutter could happen as soon as next week on Third, Linden and Parker Street. The first level of pavement will happen this fall with the final course in the spring after the first freeze/thaw cycle. There continues to be weekly contractor meetings and meetings with business owners. Pardun believes the contractor is doing a great job and is very happy with the progress thus far. Roden questioned if the General Store can get a copy of the overall plan to post in the front window.

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec – Anderson noted there is no plan for a pavilion in Burriss park. In may be part of a future plan, however right now it was just a discussion. Anderson reviewed the movie night request from the last Council meeting. Paul Creager would be heading this up, and it would take place in Burriss Park. There is significant cost between equipment and licenses and each event

would be approximately \$600. These would be family friendly movies, and weather contingent. Anderson is requesting the City fund one movie which would be approximately \$1,000. This event would be complete by 8:30pm and would be no noise issues with the neighbors.

*Anderson moved and Miller seconded to spend no more than \$1,000 out of the holiday fund for a movie in the park night utilizing Paul Creager as the event coordinator.*

*Anderson – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Pardun – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

Millsite – No Report.

Urban Forest – Peter Foster submitted a report and an updated Emerald Ash Borer plan. The committee planted all the trees from the gravel bed, and Peter thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the planting. Miller noted liability with trees planted in City right of way. If those trees are in right of way, the City is ultimately responsible for any maintenance or removal. In the future, any trees should be planted on private property or in City parks. Anderson noted that the DNR offers white pine saplings and would like to have the committee look into obtaining those.

Cemetery – No Report.

City Properties– Pardun reported on the discussion held at the CARES meeting, and discussion was held on using CARES funding for the A/C upstairs as it relates to Covid. The Council would also like to see the heating system upgraded for the main floor Council chambers and Clerk's office. The cost of the A/C unit is \$5,285 and the heat pump would be \$4,709.

Pardun also reviewed the plan for hosting pods at the Marine Elementary and updated that this plan will be moving forward. Anderson questioned how these rooms will be sanitized. Pardun stated each pod will be responsible for sanitizing their own areas, and the thought is that those people will provide their own cleaning supplies. Roden questioned if there would be a rental cost. Pardun would like to not see a charge, however it will depend on how many families participate. The details are still be worked out, however there will be a waiver that will need to be signed and temperatures will be taken at the door upon entering. Miller noted that he has been asked if the space may also be used for residents who are working from home and need a work space. There has been no consideration for that at this time. Anderson questioned how this is being marketed. Pardun stated the group has reached out to several families in communities that were previously involved in family night through the Folk School.

Miller reported there are still issues with residents leaving dog feces around town. Many of these are of bags of feces left for City Staff to clean up. Anderson called on all Marine residents to do the right thing and clean up after their dogs.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to accept the proposal from Young and Son's for the purchase and installation of an air conditioning unit for the upstairs of the Village Hall in the amount of \$5,285, to be paid for out of the CARES funding, and the purchase and installation of a mini split heat pump for the main floor in the amount of \$4,709 to be paid out of the Village Hall fund.*

*Pardun – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Anderson -yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

Water Systems – Watershed Maintenance agreement – Pardun reported that the Ravine Stabilization project is almost complete for the year. As part of the Judd Street project, there are storm water ponds being installed to catch the water coming off of Highway 95. A maintenance agreement for these ponds has been presented by the Watershed District for the ponds at Parker, Maple and Oak Streets. This agreement would be in affect for 25 years. Pardun noted this is an item that will be budgeted for out of the stormwater fund. Anderson in is favor and would like to see volunteers help with the maintenance also.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the maintenance agreement with the Watershed District for the maintenance of the ponds at Parker, Maple and Oak Streets.*

*Pardun – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Anderson – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

### Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities - Leslie MacKenzie presented a power point on EV Chargers. The committee has been attending workshops on this topic and would like to see chargers installed in Marine. Currently there are very few charging options along Highway 95. The committee believes having chargers in town would make Marine more accessible to visitors. For a level 2 charger, the average charge time is 2-4 hours, which is time each person is spending in the community. Level

3 chargers are a better option, but also very costly and are a high energy draw. The Committee proposed several locations around town to place a charger, along with the pros and cons of each location and technology considerations and cost. Signage would be required both on the street and free standing. There is currently no state or federal funding in our area, and the committee is suggesting a public/business/municipal partnership. The committee is proposing the north end of Judd Street as the most favorable location. The overall cost of one level 2 charger would be approximately \$2,000. Anderson is against asking the businesses for funding and should be crowd funded. Anderson would also like to see the energy costs for the proposed location. Pardun would like that location discussed with public works as the north end of Judd is the place the City places much of the snow in the winter. Miller questioned the maintenance cost. Ms. MacKenzie stated most cities who purchase a level 2 charging station opt to just replace the charger rather than pay for maintenance given the lower cost of each unit.

Holidays/Events – Roden stated that a request was made by Kevin Nyenhuis to include a log cabin in the Gazebo park with the trees over Christmas. Miller believes the issue with doing that is that it has not been removed in a timely manner in the past. Anderson would like to work on creating a plan and timeline for all of the ideas. This event was created to help promote small business Saturday and believes a plan would be prudent.

EDA – No Report.

Communication Infrastructure – Website is up and running and getting great feedback. Miller congratulated the Assistant Clerk on the latest newsletter.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/10/20, 9/29/20, Treasurer's Report of 9/20, List of Bills for 10/8/20, Zoning Administrators Report-none, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.*

*Roden-yes*

*Anderson-yes*

*Pardun-yes*

*Miller-yes*

*Mills – yes*

*Motion passed unanimously*

Old/New Business –

Clerk Peterson reported that the Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on December 1, 2020 at 6:00pm.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to set the Truth in Taxation meeting for December 1, 2020 at 6:00pm.*

*Pardun – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Anderson – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Clerk Peterson presented a resolution required by the State of MN listing the election judges who will be working the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. Anderson thanked the election judges for serving.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Resolution approving the election judges working the November 2020 General election as stated.*

*Miller – yes*

*Pardun – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

William O'Brien State Park is requesting an exemption for the 5 ft stand requirement for the hunt on November 14 and 15.

*Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve the stand exemption for William O'Brien State Park for their November 14 and 15 hunt.*

*Anderson – yes*

*Miller – yes*

*Roden – yes*

*Pardun – yes*

*Mills – yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

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Long/Short Term Goals – Anderson requested to remove Urban Forest.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment . Anderson moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:04pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk