

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2020

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

Citizens Present: Gerry Mroska, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Dan Malmgren, Nancy Cosgriff, Ryan Goodman, Jennifer Johnson, Brigid Sandager, Wendy Ward, Mary Jo Vandell, Mary Fernstrum, Win Miller, Kitzie Vadheim, Anne Reich, Kathy Marker, Kevin Nyenhuis, Todd Mestad, Jerrod Spicer, Dorothy Deetz, Mary Burke, Juli Hagstrom, Erik Sandager, Gayle Knutson, Jim Maher, Larry Martin, Curt Moe.

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

Roden - yes

Anderson - yes

Miller -yes

Pardun -yes

Mills -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations –

Mary Jo Van Dell – Hall Rental Request – Ms. Van Dell was in attendance to request the resident rate for an art show she, along with approximately 7 other artists, will be holding upstairs of the Village Hall in December. This will not be widely advertised, but will mostly be for local residents and surrounding communities. Anderson questioned if there is a plan for clean up, including the floors given the winter weather. Ms. Van Dell said she would make sure the hall was clean after the event.

Roden moved and Anderson seconded to reduce the hall rent rate for Ms. Van Dell to the resident rate, along with the \$100 cleaning fee.

Anderson – yes

Roden – yes

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Brigid Sandager – Fence Encroachment Request – Mr. and Mrs. Sandager was in attendance to again request the portion of Cherry Street on the north side of their property be vacated. Several

months ago, the Sandagers made the same request however the Council was not in favor and instead approved an encroachment agreement for their driveway and garage. Since then, the Sandagers had a purchase agreement for the sale of their home however the interest party, along with their mortgage company, were not satisfied with the encroachment agreement and has since pulled out of their agreement. Sandagers have submitted the formal signed petition, along with the survey showing the street boundaries for consideration. Pardun noted that the City has a precedence of not vacating streets, however this is a unique situation in that the portion of Cherry Street on both the east and west sides of the Sandager property has already been vacated. Anderson was in favor given the unique circumstances laid out by Council member Pardun and so that it is clear that a precedent not be set for street vacations.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to set a public hearing to consider a street vacation request for Brigid and Erik Sandager for December 10, 2020 at 7:05pm.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Jerrod Spicer – Mr. Spicer was in attendance to introduce himself as the new owner of the gas station. The Council welcomed Mr. Spicer.

Marla – Jim Maher reported on the recent activities. The website is almost complete, as is the library remodel. Washington County approved the expanded bequest request. The annual fundraising letter had been mailed, and there is an on line program next Thursday. River Radio continues on Saturday mornings. Mr. Maher thanked the Council and City Staff for the continuing support of the library, and paid a special tribute to Mayor Mills and Council member Miller for their long term support.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska reported the October meeting was rescheduled due to technical difficulties. The commission met again Tuesday evening and discussed the possibility of having a consultant assist with the amending of the communications ordinance. A proposal was presented for a consultant recommended by Scott Spisak. Anderson would like to see a timeline as to when this project will be complete. Chairman Mroska will reach out for that information. Anderson questioned where the funding would come from and if there are available funds in the current budget. Clerk Peterson noted there is no funds available in the current budget and suggested discussing as part of the 2021 budget. Anderson would like the Chairman to come back with the timeline and revisit at the December meeting. Miller appreciated the Commission realizes they need help and he believes this will ensure the process is done correctly. Miller questioned once the ordinance is drafted, a public hearing is still required and then the City will need to go out for RFP. Roden questioned when the ordinance might be complete. Anderson believes it will be 3-4 months

for the ordinance, then 1 month for RFP and then construction.

The Commission believes they will have the draft code changes submitted to Council by next month. There are a few items that were not completed but can be discussed at a later time.

Chairman Mroska questioned how the Commission should respond to resident comments, letters, etc. The correspondence should go through the City office and then distributed. The Commission does not directly respond to each resident.

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren reported that first responders will receive a Covid vaccine in January when available. Training will be moved to the school, along the continuance of virtual training. Justin McNamara is a new probational member.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve Justin McNamara as a probational member.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. Washington County’s CIP is out for public comment.

The first request for payment has been submitted for Dressel for which the engineer is recommending payment. Anderson thanked Council members Pardun and Roden and the assistant clerk for their role in keeping the business owners and residents in the loop.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the contractor pay request to Dressel Contracting in the amount of \$584,480.55 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

There is a Master Partnership Contract between the City and MnDOT to allow for plant inspections as part of the Village Center project.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve Resolution 20201112-02 approving a master

partnership contract with the MN Department of Transportation.

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec – Anderson reported on the movie in the park event. There were approximately 80 people in attendance and many residents have requested to do this event again. Anderson thanked the Council for their support.

Roden requested approval to create a banner for the Enchanting Forest to place across Maple Street, much like the Art Fair and Streetdance banners. The banner would be paid for out of their fund. The consensus of the Council was to move forward.

Millsite – Anne Reich reported that the committee was invited to be a part of a round table for the Maple Street channel stabilization project.

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reported on the events completed over the last year, including the bird migration project, planting of the gravel bed trees, completing a tree inventory, emerald ash borer education and the Arbor Day celebration. Anderson requested to be included in future meetings.

Cemetery – No Report.

City Properties– The ionization system has been installed. The pod idea is still out there, but nothing has happened as of yet.

Water Systems – Pardun presented a resolution requested by the Watershed District to reduce the number of board member seats from 7 to 5. The Watershed District is having a difficult time filling the seats, and they are one of the few Districts that still allow for 7 board members. Miller noted the current members have been very cogniscent of their budget and current members have done a great job.

Pardun moved and to approve Resolution 2020112-03 to reduce the number of Watershed members from 7 to 5.

Pardun – yes

Miller – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities - Leslie MacKenzie submitted their monthly report. A new location has been identified for the EV charging unit, which is behind the General Store by the lift station. One bid has been received thus far for the charger and electrical work. The current estimate of usage would be approximately \$75 the first year, and then increasing to \$230 and then by the year 2030 would be \$576 per year. A new grant opportunity has recently come out for level 2 chargers, which they are looking into.

The dark sky event has been postponed.

The B3 Benchmarking project cannot move forward until City Staff can have a phone conversation to determine the time the project will take.

Holidays/Events – No Report.

EDA – No Report.

Communication Infrastructure – Anderson will be working with the assistant clerk on eforms for the website.

Consent Calendar – *Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 10/8/20, Treasurer’s Report of 10/20, List of Bills for 11/12/20, 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 presented the election results.

Moved and seconded to certify the official election results as presented.

Pardun – yes

*Roden – yes
Miller – yes
Anderson – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Clerk Peterson presented a resolution amending the City Code to add the Short Term Rental ordinance. A request was also made for the Council to approve the corresponding licensing documents along with a request to set the license fee amount. Anderson would like to add the leash law and removal of dog waste under .. and to include the city website in the welcome letter.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution 20201112-01, Ordinance 157 amending the City Code to add Chapter 30, Short Term Rentals.

*Pardun – yes
Miller – yes
Anderson – yes
Roden – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve the drafted Short Term rental license application, guest rental instructions, welcome letter, complaint form, and statement of responsibility as amended by Councilmember Anderson.

*Pardun – yes
Miller – yes
Roden – yes
Anderson – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to set the Short Term Rental license fee at \$200.

*Pardun – yes
Miller – yes
Roden – yes
Anderson – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Anderson moved to approve the City Clerk to hire a consultant to assist with the trademarking process for the City logo, not to exceed \$400 for the consultant and \$1000 for the entire process.

Anderson – yes

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Clerk Peterson the Council of the Truth in Taxation meeting on December 1, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Long/Short Term Goals –

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – None

Adjournment . Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:19pm.

Miller Yes

Roden Yes

Pardun yes

Anderson yes

Mills yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk