

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 6:00pm. Pardun, Miller, Roden present. Anderson absent.

Citizens Present: Jason Crotty, John Goodfellow, Wendy Ward, Peter Foster, Larry Martin, Jim Maher, Pat Pardun, Mary Burke, Leslie McKenzie, Nancy Cosgriff, John Goodfellow, Win Miller, Chris Strand, Scott Spisak, Julie Pazlar, Kevin Nyenhuis, Robin Brooksbank, Theresa Kenzie, Valoree Dowell.

Mayor Mills opened the meeting for the purpose of discussing the 2021 proposed budget. Clerk Peterson then reviewed the budget changes.

Pardun began by stating that he would like to see a zero increase this year given the pandemic and that the fact that Marine does not receive state aid and so the majority of the levy is tax based. He then listed the line items he would like to see cut as follows:

Urban Forest - \$2,000

Sheriff Patrol - \$2,500 – as Washington County has not yet invoiced the City for this in the two years we have been requesting the additional patrol.

RDS – Anti Icing equipment - \$5,000 – Jason Crotty has spoken to the City of Stillwater, and they have agreed to bring their equipment to Marine to try this process downtown prior to the Council making the commitment to put money away. Pardun noted that this process does not typically allow for plowing after the brine is applied, which is not what the residents are used too.

RDS - \$150,000 – the Judd Street project will use up the reserve funds, along with the money budgeted for 2020 and potentially \$50,000 of the 2021 funds. The Council will need to revisit the roads Capital Improvement plan once the Judd Street project is complete.

Lastly, Pardun requested to add \$500 to the City logo line item in order to fully pay for the cost of Trademarking the City logo. The Council agreed to all proposed changes.

Miller reviewed the changes he would like to make.

Holidays/Fireworks – With the fireworks being cancelled this year due to Covid, he would like to use the money budgeted in 2020 to pay for the event in 2021 and eliminate the \$12,500. Clerk Peterson requested keeping \$1500 to pay for the Christmas decorations. The Council agreed.

P&R – Park Shelter – Miller suggested eliminating that for next year and then using the \$5,000 that was allocated for this item in 2020 to pay for the Communications Consultant requested by

the Planning Commission. The Council agreed.

P&R and CEM Tree Trimming – Miller noted those funds have not been used fully the last couple of years and suggested reducing each line by \$1,500.

Ice Rink – The last couple of years have been below budget and it was suggested to reduce that by \$2,000. Clerk Peterson reminded the Council that the rink is weather dependent and the last two winters have been warmer, reducing the time the rink is open.

Mayor Mills questioned the \$25,000 for the Village Hall. Pardun noted that the bathrooms need to be remodeled and the Clerk's offices are unsafe and also need to be upgraded. However, there is currently \$90,000 in the reserve fund and until a formal plan is presented, he agreed with eliminating that line item this year.

John Goodfellow, resident, requested the Urban Forest be reconsidered. He believes this issue is very valuable to the City and would like to see at least \$1,000 added back in to cover the gravel bed trees. After some discussion, the Council agreed.

Mr. Goodfellow would also like to see the money added back in for the anti-icing equipment however believes the suggestion of trying it first is a good one.

Wendy Ward, resident, believes there is base line methodology on anti-icing and does not believe experiments are necessary.

Valoree Dowell, resident, pointed out the cost for electricity at the Elementary School is very high for an empty building. Pardun noted the City is looking at ways to minimize those costs, however the building is running six HVAC units and must maintain a somewhat consistent temperature to avoid issues like mold, etc.

Dave Heieren, owner of the Schoolhouse Apartments, was upset that the overall taxes on his building have increased 250% since 2016. The Council explained that number is based on many factors, including the valuation of his building. They also noted that the amount listed in his 2021 proposed tax statement is not the actual number given the Council just reduced the levy amount to under the year 2020 amount. They suggested contacting the City Assessor to discuss the valuation of his building. Clerk Peterson offered to email him the assessors information and also noted that the Board of Review meeting in April is the time to address valuations.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to leave the budget at \$942,499.10 which is a -0.29% decrease over 2020. The Council will set the official levy at the December Council meeting.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 6:53pm.*

*Pardun yes*

*Roden yes*

*Miller yes*

*Mills yes*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk (budget attached)