

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

Citizens Present: Gerry Mroska, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Dan Malmgren, Nancy Cosgriff, Ryan Goodman, Brigid Sandager, Wendy Ward, Mary Jo Vandell, Mary Fernstrum, Win Miller, Kitzie Vadheim, Anne Reich, Kathy Marker, Kevin Nyenhuis, Mary Burke, Erik Sandager, Gayle Knutson, Jim Maher, Larry Martin, Fran Miron, Leanna Miller, Scott Spisak, Tom Boesel, Diane Mills, Robin Brooksbank, Linda Tibbetts, Kevin Nyenhuis, Nancy Lindblom, Dan Willenbring, Tom Mills, Tim Casey, Curt Walter, Jackie Mills, Jim Smith, Pat Pardun, Jennifer Henry, David Sandager, Kristina Smitten, Brianne Marshall, Gregg Brooksbank, Juli Hagstrom, Pete Marker, Curt Moe

Approval of the Agenda – Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Commissioner Fran Miron after the public hearing.

Roden - yes

Anderson - yes

Miller -yes

Pardun -yes

Mills -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Mills opened the public hearing at 7:02pm

Street Vacation Request – Public Hearing – Erik and Brigid Sandager were in attendance a few months back to request a street vacation for the portion of Cherry Street on the north side of their home. Currently there is a driveway and garage that have been built on a portion of Cherry street. The Council granted an encroachment agreement in lieu of a vacation at that time. The Sandagers have placed their home up for sale and have lost a potential buyer due to their lender not accepting the encroachment agreement. The Sandagers have submitted a petition with the signature of the neighboring property owner on the north side of Cherry Street, along with a survey with the description of the portion of Cherry Street requesting to be vacated.

Miller noted this would be an exception to the history of the Council not vacating streets. The Council made the point that Cherry Street has previously been vacated on both the east and west side of the portion in question and believes this makes the request unique in nature. All residents within 350 ft of the Sandagers were noticed and no objections were received.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the portion of Cherry Street as described in the Certificate of Survey drafted by Landmark Surveying dated November 7, 2020.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Mills closed the public hearing at 7:08pm

Commissioner Fran Miron – Commissioner Miron reported on current County happenings. Five businesses in Marine received County assistance offered due to the Covid pandemic. There will be an additional grant program approved by the State which will send 4.7 million dollars to Washington County to help local businesses, food shelves and school districts. Commissioner Miron also noted that County taxes have been reduced, which will help all residents of Marine. Commissioner Miron also congratulated the City and Council on the State funds received for the Judd Street revitalization project and stated Washington County is proud to be the fiscal agent for the City on this project.

Commissioner Miron then recognized the strong leadership in the City of Marine and all of the hard work and dedication the Mayor and Council members give to their community. He then spoke to both Mayor Mills and Councilmember Miller thanking them for their work and leadership. He believes Marine continues to display leadership and integrity, even when opinions differ. Commissioner Miron then presented Mayor Mills and Councilmember Miller the Commissioner Service Award for their service to Marine.

Robin Brooksbank read a letter to Mayor Mills recognizing his last meeting as Mayor and thanking him, on behalf of all prior Councilmembers, for his service over the last 22 years.

Mike Lammi – resident and previous Councilmember also recognized Mayor Mills and the work he has done for the City. Mr. Lammi spoke of several instances when Mayor Mills went above and beyond for the community.

Tommy Boesel and Jason Crotty, public works staff, said a few words to Councilmember Miller and Mayor Mills.

Chief Malmgren thanked both for their service to the community on the Fire Department and the community.

Suzanne Dammann also thanked both for their service.

Clerk Peterson thanked Councilmember Miller and Mayor Mills for their service and presented Mayor Mills with a plaque on behalf of the Council and Staff recognizing his 22 years as the Mayor of the City of Marine.

Councilmember Pardun also recognized both and thanked them for their tenure on Council and dedicated to staff and the residents.

Bill Miller thanked Mayor Mills for everything he has done for the community by example.

Citizens Considerations –

Marine Village School Letter – Win Miller submitted a letter to let the Council and residents know that a meeting will be held on December 19th and January 9th to discuss the school update.

Millstream Association Letter – A letter was received stating that the Millstream Association will be disbanding. The Association would like to donate the remaining funds to the City and requests that the City take over and continue the May Day celebration. Win Miller also requested that the donated funds be used for Mill Stream restoration work. Anderson would like to see the City work on this as the pandemic allows.

Marla – Jim Maher reported on the Marla events. The library redesign is almost complete, as is the new website. The birthday celebration will be held on January 21st via Zoom. New books continue to be circulated through the online catalog, and the program held last month had very high attendance.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla reported on the November meeting. The Zoning Code updates are complete and have been forwarded to the Council for review. There are several items that the Commission is looking for guidance on from the Council during the review. Once the wireless communications ordinance is adopted, then the Commission and Council can meet to discuss the complete zoning code amendments and move forward with the adoption process.

Ed Sanderson, Ron Brenner and Scott Spisak all have expiring terms. Brenner and Sanderson have agreed to an additional one year term, however Scott Spisak will be stepping down. Tim Casey, Marine resident, has submitted a letter of interest to join the Planning Commission. Chairman Mrosla believes Mr. Casey would fit in well with the current members and is very qualified. Miller thanked Scott Spisak for his work on the Planning Commission, and his work as part of the school committee. Anderson believes Mr. Casey should be on the Commission based upon his qualifications, however he believes this current opening should be posted to allow additional community members an opportunity to apply.

Chairman Mrosla presented the contract and proposed timeline with KPCG and requested the Council officially approve the contract.

Pardun recognized Scott Spisak's work on the acquisition of the school and his contribution to the

Planning Commission.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to accept Tim Casey as a Planning Commission for a three year term.

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

Four in favor, one against. Motion passed.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to appoint Ron Brenner and Ed Sanderson to an additional one year term.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to approve the wireless communications contract with KPCG not to exceed \$5,000.

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

All in favor, motion passed

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren presented a contract renewal between the City and Regions Hospital for training purposes. There is a need for a name change on page 2, 1.8 – Mary Skamser will be removed and Dan Malmgren’s name will be inserted.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Regions Hospital contract renewal as amended.

*Pardun – yes
Miller – yes*

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

A letter was received from the State Communications Board recognizing the City for their work on addressing the need for a communications tower within the City for public safety purposes.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. Ryan also thanked Mayor Mills and Councilmember Miller on for their support throughout the years and the work they have accomplished.

The second request for payment has been submitted for Dresel Contracting for which the engineer is recommending payment. Miller commended Dresel for their excellent work on this project.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the contractor pay request to Dresel Contracting in the amount of \$152,430.48 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Roden – yes

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Mills – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Personnel - Pardun reported that Jason Crotty has requested to reduce his time to 20 per week. Jason will continue to handle the administrative side of the job and assist with snowplowing and sewer issues. Pardun is in support of this request and stated the City can re-evaluate in March.

Parks & Rec –

Millsite – Anne Reich thanked Bill Miller for being the Millsite Council liaison and Mayor Mills for his service.

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reviewed their committee report. They are currently reviewing the tree inventory and looking into Buckthorn removal between Parker Street and Burriss Park. The committee is also looking into white pine seedlings to grow in containers at the maintenance building. John Goodfellow is working on the Tree City recertification. Peter thanked Councilmember Miller and Mayor Mills for their support for the Urban Forest.

Cemetery – A few Oak trees have been removed.

City Properties– No report.

Water Systems– Public works will begin sump pump inspections in the spring.

Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities - Leslie McKenzie reported the first bid was received on installing an EV charger, which was \$4,753. They are working on getting additional bids. Education materials have been submitted for the website on the Dark Sky and are waiting on approval for additional staff time to move forward on Step 4.

Holidays/Events – The Enchanting Forest has drawn a lot of attention and seems to be bringing people in.

EDA – No Report.

Communication Infrastructure – Anderson reported the wireless communications ordinance should be ready for review by the Planning Commission by February. Once everything is approved and once the City goes out the RFP's, it would be early fall prior to construction of a tower.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/12/20, Treasurer's Report of 11/20, List of Bills for 121/10/20 with the addition of \$6489.40 to Northwoods Industry, 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 –

Short Term Rental License - Dave Heieren has submitted a STR license request for the Schoolhouse Apartments. This is the only license application that has been received. Clerk Peterson reported the application is complete with the exception of receiving the insurance policy number.

Anderson moved and Roden to approve the Short Term rental license request for Dave Heieren for the School House apartments for 2021.

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the 2021 levy at \$942,299.10 which represents a -0.29% decrease over 2020.

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve the 2020 Reserve Funds as presented.

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the annual tobacco license for the Marine General Store for 2021.

*Pardun – yes
Miller – yes
Roden – abstained*

*Anderson – yes
Mills – yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the annual liquor license for the Brookside Bar and Grill for 2021.

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to raise the compost quarterly charge from \$4 to \$6 beginning with the January utility billing.

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizen of the Year – Pardun stated he has known Bill Miller since 1997 when he became a member of the ambulance squad. He has worked with Councilmember Miller on countless projects during their tenure on Council and proudly suggested Bill Miller be the 2020 Citizen of the Year. Anderson noted that Bill Miller was one of the first people Anderson met in Marine and encouraged him to run for Council, and is in support of the nomination.

Pardun moved Mayor Mills seconded to nominate Bill Miller as the 2020 Citizen of the Year.

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

All if favor, motion passed.

Bill Miller thanked Mayor Mills for the opportunity to serve with him, and is proud to have left the City better than he found it.

Mayor Mills thanked everyone for opportunity to serve the City.

Long/Short Term Goals – No changes.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment . Mayor Mills moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:47pm.

Miller Yes

Roden Yes

Pardun yes

Anderson yes

Mills yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk