

**CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

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

Citizens Present: Gerry Mrosla, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Dan Malmgren, Ryan Goodman, Win Miller, Kitzie Vadheim, Jim Maher, Patti Kraske, Sara Rottunda, Dorothy Deetz, Scott Spisak, Jody Nyenhuis, Mary Femstrum, Mary Whitaker, Pat Pardun, Tom Warth, Nancy Cosgriff, Jacob grove, Tim Casey, Mary Burke, Valoree Dowell, Chris Strand, Jaci Christiansen, Kristina Smitten, Liz Kelly, Jeff Comins, Cheryl Johnson, Dan Rodriguez, Larry Martin, Jennifer Johnson, Claire Nyenhuis, Zanny Johnson, John Goodfellow, Dana Lindsey, Paul Reuvers, Dave Snyder

Clerk Peterson administered the Oath of Office to the new Council members Wendy Ward and Lon Pardun and incoming Mayor Kevin Nyehuis.

Mayor Mills turned the meeting over to incoming Mayor Nyenhuis. Mayor Nyenhuis thanked Mayor Mills for his role as Mayor as all the past Mayors who have served the citizens of Marine.

*Approval of the Agenda -Anderson moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda*

*Roden -yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Ward-yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Nyenhuis -yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Designate Official Depository - Anderson moved and Roden seconded to designate Lon Pardun as acting Mayor, that the monthly meeting date by the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, that the Country Messenger be the official newspaper, that the Security State Bank of Marine be the official depository, that Johnson and Turner be the official legal firm, that Bolton & Menk be the City Engineer and that Robert Rules of Order, Revised, be the official rules of the meeting.

*Anderson - yes*

*Ward-yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Roden -yes*

*Nyenhuis - yes*

*All in favor, motion passes*

Citizens Considerations -

An application has been received by Dan Rodriguez to film a music video in the City on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The production will be filmed with 4-5 people and would last approximately 2 hours. The filming will be done in front of the bank on Judd Street, and the bank along with Washington County have both been contacted and are working with Mr. Rodriguez on this project. Anderson suggested a permit fee of \$50.

*Anderson moved and Ward seconded to approve the music video application by Dan Rodriguez for January 30<sup>th</sup> with a permit fee of \$50 made payable to the City of Marine on St Croix.*

*Pardun yes*

*Anderson yes*

*Roden yes*

*Ward yes*

*Nyenhuis yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Marla - Jim Maher reported on the Marla events. There will be Zoom event one week from today to celebrate the library's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. The fundraising drive for 2020 was a huge success. Programs will be back beginning in February and books are still available on line. River Radio will return on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska reported there was no December meeting. The communications committee has met however no update has been submitted on the ordinance progress. Anderson requested a status check on the deliverables for the work schedule from KCPG.

Committee Assignments - Mayor Nyenhuis questioned if the Council would like to discuss now or schedule a workshop. Pardun addressed the proposed committee list that Mayor Nyenhuis sent to the Council. There were a few new committees proposed, such as Restoration Society, Christ Lutheran Church and Civic Club. Pardun explained that those are separate entities and not under the City purview. Ward questioned if there will be an impact on Councilmember Anderson's committees once he is deployed. Anderson believes he will be able to keep up on his committees. Nyenhuis would like to see a Council contact for the Restoration Society and other civic groups.

Nyenhuis and Ward offered to take the cemetery. Roden and Ward will take Green Step Cities. Anderson and Ward will be on Parks & Recreation. Roden will be the Restoration Society liaison, along with Pardun as City properties. Pardun and Roden will remain on Roads. Anderson and Pardun will take Communications Infrastructure. Roden will take holidays/events. Pardun will remain on Personnel with Nyenhuis as a backup. Anderson will remain on Public Safety and does not believe a second Council member is necessary as Chief Malmgren is very involved. Pardun will remain on water systems with Ward as a second.

Fire and Rescue - Chief Malmgren reported that the department was awarded the grant for a new washer and dryer in the amount of \$10,000. Anderson thanked department member Jami Philip for working on that grant application. Washington County is now administering Covid vaccinations to public safety members and members of the Marine department were given their first round at the end of December. Seeing as the Art Fair fundraiser has been dissolved, the committee is looking for new fundraising ideas.

*Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve Councilmember Anderson as the Council member at large for the Marine Relief Association.*

*Pardun yes*

*Anderson yes*

*Roden yes*

*Ward yes*

*Nyenhuis yes*

*All in favor, motion passed.*

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. The Washington County Bike Plan comment period will be ending in February. Goodman will be attending workshops on the Floodplain Risk Assessment for the area encompassing Forest Lake down to Stillwater. Ward questioned how the bike plan correlates with the Gateway Trail. Goodman stated the two groups have been working together and the plans will fit together nicely. Ward also questioned if the floodplain risk assessment will be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan. Goodman stated this assessment will take a long time to complete and the City does have a very comprehensive floodplain section already.

Personnel - Anderson advised he is being deployed to the middle east beginning in March. He has no plans to resign at this time but will re-evaluate at the time if he feels like he cannot manage his duties to the Council.

Parks & Rec - Anderson questioned if the Millstream has indicated a dollar amount being turned over to the City. Clerk Peterson has not heard anything however will follow up with Win Miller.

Anderson reported there are issues with walkers on the ski trails in Jackson Meadow. The HOA would like to put up a few sandwich board signs on those trails in order to educate the walkers on where to walk. The Council was fine with that idea. Nyenhuis reported the prairie restoration work in Jackson Meadow is almost complete and thanked Land Bridge for the good work.

Clerk Peterson requested raising the rink attendant pay to \$10/hour to bring it in line with other seasonal pay and as an incentive for finding people to work.

*Anderson moved and Ward seconded to raise the hourly wage for the ice rink attendant pay to \$JO/hour.*

*Anderson yes*

*Roden yes*

*Pardun yes*

*Ward yes*

*Nyenhuis yes*

*All in favor, motion passed.*

Millsite -No Report.

Urban Forest- Peter Foster submitted a report. There is a group of volunteers that would like to removed buckthom between Burris Park and Highway 95. The committee would like to plant Tamarack in place of the black ash that will fall to Emerald Ash Borer. Pardun wanted to make sure the group is in discussion with MnDOT for work done within their right of way.

Cemetery - No Report

City Properties- No report.

Water Systems - No Report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities -No December meeting. Leslie McKenzie reported there have been two quotes received from electricians for the EV chargers and are waiting for one additional.

Holidays/Events - Roden questioned if the Christmas trees in the Gazebo park can be decorated with hearts for Valentines Day. The consensus of the Council was to go ahead.

EDA - Will re-assign the board members at the February meeting.

Communication Infrastructure - Anderson and Clerk Peterson will look into the cable franchise agreement renewal with Midco.

Consent Calendar - *Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/1/20, 12/9/20, Treasurer's Report of 12/20, List of Bills for 1/10/20, Zoning Administrators Report-, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.*

*Roden-yes  
Anderson-yes  
Pardun-yes  
Ward-yes  
Mills-yes  
Motion passed unanimously*

Old/New Business -

*Anderson moved and Roden seconded to approve Weaver Legal and Consulting as the firm to assist the City with the logo trademarking process.*

*Roden-yes  
Anderson-yes  
Pardun-yes  
Ward-yes  
Mills-yes  
Motion passed unanimously*

Washington County Historical Society Budget Request-Brent Peterson, Washington County Historical Society, had come to the City in 2020 to request a contribution for their future building. The Council was going to discuss at the December Truth in Taxation meeting, however that topic was missed. Pardun noted that since the budget was brought down to zero, it would have been difficult to fit in anyway. Clerk Peterson will contact Mr. Peterson and let him know the Council will address at this year's budget meetings.

Anderson spoke with a business owner who was concerned about paying their utility bill on time due to Covid and was concerned about late fees being assessed. He suggested not assessing late fees for residents and businesses owners until prior to certification of delinquent utilities. Pardun questioned how many residents/businesses were delinquent at the end of 2020. Clerk Peterson reported the utilities certified to Washington County in 2020 was consistent with the same number certified in previous years. A question was raised how the City handles late fees for residents who have difficulty paying. Clerk Peterson explained she typically allows for at least a one time late fee adjustment and has also set up payment plans with residents in the past. After further discussion, the Council did not believe a waiver of late fees for 2021 was necessary.

*Mayor Nyenhuis recessed the public meeting at 8:18pm for the purpose of discussing a lawsuit captioned *Norusis vs the City of Marine*, relating to the property at 801 Pine Cone Trail.*

*Mayor Nyenhuis called the regular meeting back to order at 8:45pm.*

Long/Short Term Goals - No changes.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report-None

Adjournment- Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:47pm.

*Ward Yes*

*Roden Yes*

*Pardun yes*

*Anderson yes*

*Mills yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*