

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 11, 2021

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

Citizens Present: Gerry Mroska, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Dan Malmgren, Ryan Goodman, Win Miller, Kitzie Vadheim, Jim Maher, Dorothy Deetz, Mary Fernstrum, Mary Whitaker, Pat Pardun, Tom Warth, Nancy Cosgriff, John Goodfellow, Glen Mills, Bill Miller, Roberta Miller, Ginger/Stan Bolin, Curt Moe, Anne Reich,

Approval of the Agenda –Anderson moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda with the amendment to move Personnel up to the front of the agenda.

*Roden - yes
Anderson - yes
Ward -yes
Pardun -yes
Nyenhuis -yes*

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations –

Marla – Roden updated on current library events. Book bags are available for patrons to borrow and the group is working on a way to re-open safely to the public. River Radio has resumed on Saturday mornings.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska updated the Council on the January meeting. Tim Casey is doing great as a new commission member. Communications committee has received sample ordinance updates from the consultant and they will be meeting to review and comment prior to sending to the rest of the Commission. Recruitment was discussed and the best way to handle the process moving forward as there is the potential of four vacancies at the end of 2021. The Commission also discussed how to address comments from residents and whether it is appropriate for Commissioners to address each resident specifically. The Clerk's office will handle those comments and post to acknowledge the residents. Anderson commended the process of the new communications ordinance.

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren updated the Council on recent events. The Relief Association will be donating \$25,000 to the department from fundraising during 2020. The members will be receiving the second dose of Covid vaccine at the end of the month. Anderson thanked the department members for going above and beyond during a recent call.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. Washington County has adopted the bicycle and pedestrian plan which is on their website for review. There is a request for Payment #3 for Dresel Contracting as part of the Judd Street road project in the amount of \$17,079.96.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the contractor's request for payment number 3 in the amount of \$17,079.96.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Personnel - Councilmember Pardun presented a plaque to Clerk Peterson for recognition of 20 years of service. Several current and past Councilmembers spoke, along with Ginger Bolin, the former City Clerk. Clerk Peterson thanked the Council and stated her appreciation for the residents and past Councils.

Parks & Rec –

Millsite – No Report.

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reported 100 Tamarack seedlings have been ordered for the gravel bed. Still looking into restoration work for the Millpond in Burris park. 50 white pine seedlings have been ordered for Arbor Day. Pardun would like to meet with the Urban Forest committee to discuss any potential fund requests from MnDOT and he and the City Engineer have ideas on how to move forward on that request. Anderson clarified that the work done for that project would be done with volunteers and the funding from MnDOT would be for materials.

Cemetery – Clerk Peterson submitted a proposal for raising rates for both lot purchases and burials. The City's charges are very low in comparison to most other cemeteries and rates have not been raised in many years.

City Properties– .

Water Systems – The I and I inspections are going well and are close to being complete. Ward questioned how the project is being managed. Jason Crotty advised the residents have been very compliant with the inspections and are being good with correcting any issues once they understand the process and why the inspections are happening.

The lift station project is almost complete however the weather has postponed the recent work.

Citizen Committee Reports – Nyenhuis suggested the Citizen committee reports be a quarterly report rather than monthly in order to save time during the meetings

Green Step Cities – No Report.

Holidays/Events – Roden suggested maybe having a July 4th parade in lieu of fireworks this year due to Covid. She has received some inquiries of a May Day celebration but isn't sure where the City is with events. Nyenhuis would like to look at putting together a committee to discuss events for 2021. Anderson would like to see Marine Mills continued this year, and also a Memorial Day procession. Clerk Peterson noted that the Fireworks company questioned if the City would be holding fireworks this year. The Council believes the City should hold off one more year given the unknown of Covid and request they keep on us the calendar for 2022.

EDA – Ward questioned expanding the scope of the EDA. The EDA was created for the purpose of purchasing the elementary school however Ward would like to explore the possibility of expanding the EDA to include working with local businesses and using it as an avenue for potential funding in the future. Pardun noted that history has shown that most new Council members gravitate towards helping the downtown businesses. However, the businesses typically have not shown any interest in forming a chamber, or business association. The General Store has utilized the Washington County EDA for funding opportunities and that is a great resource for all local businesses. Anderson agrees with Pardun, however would like to look into the option a little further. If it turns out that an expansion would end up costing the City money or the businesses do not show interest, then the process should not necessarily move forward. Nyenhuis believes since the EDA is in place then it may be worth looking into further but does not think a decision should be made now.

Communication Infrastructure – No Report.

Consent Calendar – Mayor Nyenhuis thank Chief Malmgren and Matt Peterson for getting the ice rink started and encouraged residents to utilize the rink as weather permits. The EDA board will need to meet prior to the March Council meeting in order to approve the new board members approved by the City Council. Clerk Peterson will post that meeting for 6:45pm on March 11th 2021.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the Minutes of 1/14/21, Treasurer's Report of 1/21, List of Bills for 2/11/21, 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 –

Discussion of Adopting a Land Acknowledgement for Traditional Indigenous Territory – Councilmember Ward questioned whether the Council would be open to pursuing Roden thought this type of acknowledgement would be best suited for the Comprehensive Plan. Anderson would like to see what this idea would look like and would like to see the verbiage be much broader to embrace all communities around us. Pardun would like to expand on the springboard idea and have an idea as to what the end result would be. Mayor Nyenhuis thanked Councilmember Ward to bringing the idea forward, and believes the City should take a long view on the issue and continue the discussion in the coming months.

Millstream Association Donation – The Millstream Association has recently disbanded and has donated the balance of their funds in the amount of \$8,365.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to accept the donation from the Millstream Association in the amount of \$8,365 to be used for the restoration of the Millstream within the City of Marine on St. Croix.

Mayor Nyenhuis questioned the scope of the use of those dollars. Councilmember Anderson noted that his discussions with the Millstream Association was geared towards the restoration of shoreland and the planting of native plants.

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Clerk Peterson requested Council approval to add Kevin Nyenhuis and Suzanne Dammann to the bank signature card.

Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to approve Kevin Nyenhuis and Suzanne Dammann to the bank signature card.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

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All in favor, motion passes.

Long/Short Term Goals – No changes.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment . Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:34pm.

Ward Yes

Roden Yes

Pardun yes

Anderson yes

Mills yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk