

**CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, March 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 Mrosła, Leslie McKenzie, Kitzie Vadheim, Jason Crotty, Tom Warth, Liz Kelly, Mary Skamsler, Mary Whitaker, Robin Brooksbank, Dan Malmgren, Robyn Dochterman, Jim Maher, Charles Borden, Dorothy Deetz, Scott Spisak, Gerry Mrosła,

*Approval of the Agenda – Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda with the amendment to change the second letter e to f under Council reports.*

*Roden - yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Ward -yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Nyenhuis -yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Citizens Considerations –

Robyn Dochterman – Ms. Dochterman would like to hold a Dinosaur race event at the Chocolate Shop. During this event there will be an obstacle course and they are requesting to close the Parker Street access between 11am and 1pm. Pardun has concerns that the area around the newly paved road not be disturbed or damaged as it is still incomplete as part of the road project. Ms. Dochterman stated they will rope off those areas as to keep the public off. Anderson would like to have a written summary of how the road will be blocked off and a map of the area being used from a public safety standpoint. Also, the certificate of liability they are having the participants sign does not benefit the City and suggested she look into whether it will really benefit the Chocolate Shop.

Robin Brooksbank – Ms. Brooksbank was in attendance to update the Council on the Marine Folk School. Operations were suspended one year ago due to Covid. In September, the school began to offer on line classes and they have been very successful. In July, they would like to begin outside, in person classes and in October they would like to begin in person classes inside the school building. October is also the third anniversary of the school and would like to hold some sort of community celebration.

As part of the outside classes, the school would like permission to place an outside awning to the west side of the building face Pratt street, along with returning the banner at the front of the building. The lease between the school and the City also expired in December and will need to be

extended. Pardun believes the prior lease verbiage worked well and will work with Ms. Brooksbank to bring the renewal to Council in April. Ward questioned if the school is advertising. Ms. Brooksbank stated there is no advertising currently and no plans to advertise.

Mayor Nyenhuis has some concerns about the awning and whether a temporary awning would be structurally sound. Ms. Brooksbank agrees and will work with a local contractor and the City to anchor the awning to the building. Pardun will address this during the lease discussions also.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska reported on the February meeting. Eric Larsen is building a home on Rosabell and is requesting a Conditional Use Permit for a bathroom in an accessory building. This public hearing will be held in March. The Commission and Council will be holding a workshop to discuss the draft wireless ordinance. Pardun questioned if there will be additional information sent out prior to the workshop. The firm working on the ordinance will be sending out an updated draft tomorrow.

Fire and Rescue - Chief Malmgren reported the Streetdance will be cancelled in June and maybe rescheduling for the fall. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested maybe the department coordinate with the Folk School on combining the event. The mutual aid contract between the County and surrounding departments is up for renewal and is requesting Council approval.

*Anderson moved and Ward seconded to accept the mutual aid agreement between the Counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin as listed.*

*Roden - yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Ward -yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Nyenhuis -yes*

*All in favor, motion passes*

*Anderson moved and Roden seconded accepting \$25,000 donation from the Marine Relief Association to be placed in the Fire Department dedicated fund.*

*Roden - yes*

*Anderson - yes*

*Ward -yes*

*Pardun -yes*

*Nyenhuis -yes*

*All in favor, motion passes*

Roads – The City Engineer submitted the monthly engineering report however was not in attendance so Councilmember Pardun reviewed the report. The 2021 kick off meeting for the remainder of the Judd Street project will take place early April with construction to begin end of April, weather permitting.

The local watershed districts are continuing to meet and discuss the floodplain risk assessment.

MnDOT will be performing a drainage repair project in late summer with the tree removal work beginning in March. The work will take place along highway 95 between Highway 97 and Pleasant Valley Road.

Ward noted that some business owners are using hand written directional signage and she is wondering if there are plans to assist the businesses with directional signage in the future. Pardun noted there are no plans currently for business signage, however there was design work done in the past for signage. Anderson also noted there is money put away for that signage and believes the Council can revisit that issue once the road project is complete. He does believe the City has some plan for a general directional sign during construction.

Pardun noted that the Brookside will be reopening in April and believes there needs to be discussion as to where the dumpsters should be placed. The history of those dumpsters is when the Brookside donated their garage to the fire department, the City verbally agreed to allow the Brookside to keep their dumpsters across Parker Street. Pardun noted the only other area to place them would be right next to the bank or the Chocolate Shop, which he does not believe is a good solution. He is requesting the Council look at the area and then have the discussion in April on an agreed location and also screening. Anderson is concerned about illegal dumping which makes those dumpsters very unsightly. There are also concerns of the unsightly porta potties in that same area.

Personnel - Pardun will be meeting with Public Works to discuss the current situation with Jason Crotty and create a plan moving forward.

Parks & Rec –

MnDOT Landscape Program Agreement – Anderson presented a resolution authorizing an agreement between the City and MnDOT for a partnership program which would allow costs for landscaping and restoration work done on the City's behalf to be reimbursed by the State.

*Anderson moved and Ward seconded to approve Resolution 20210311-01 authorizing the City of Marine to enter into the MnDOT community roadside landscaping partnership program agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation with the amendment to change the date from 2020 to 2021.*

*Roden-yes*

*Anderson-yes*

*Pardun-yes  
Ward-yes  
Nyenhuis- yes  
Motion passed unanimously*

Millsite – There will be an upcoming meeting and should be a report in April.

Cemetery – A rate proposal has been submitted. Anderson included a link to share with parents who have lost a child which offers assistance to those families.

*Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the cemetery rate increase as presented.*

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

*All in favor, motion passes*

City Properties– No Report.

Water Systems – The watershed district will be continuing to finish their projects from last fall. The first Saturday of every month, they will be hosting a watering party if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Citizen Committee Reports –

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reported the committee is planning the annual Arbor Day event and will be presenting Arbor Day proclamation in April. The committee is also looking for additional volunteers.

Green Step Cities – Roden reported the committee would like to host an event at the school property to promote Dark Sky education. It would be an evening event and Mike Lynch would be in attendance with telescopes for use by the public. The event would be on September 22nd. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested they partner with the Folk School.

Roden moved that Green Step is authorized to use the elementary school property on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, weather dependent, for a Dark Sky event with the option for changing the date if necessary. The motion failed for lack of a second. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested tightening up the details of the event and that the Council look at the potential of that being a rental for school. Clerk Peterson noted there was a past workshop with Green Step in which the Council agreed on several items that they would like the committee to gather additional information on and bring

forth at a second workshop to determine what would be involved with the City moving forward with Step 4, which has not happened. Roden withdrew the motion.

Holidays/Events – Anderson reported the planning documents used for Memorial Day procession and July 4<sup>th</sup> parade was forwarded to Councilmember Roden and Mayor Nyenhuis in order to plan for this years event suggested there be alterations for the parade routes given the Judd Street road project. Anderson agreed but would like to verify the status of the road project during those times.

EDA – Ward reported she has been looking into the process for expanding the EDA and has been having conversations with the City Attorney and League of MN Cities. She would like to have a presentation ready for April or May. A typical EDA is made up of 2 Council members and 3 citizens and/or business owners and she would like to see the City’s EDA format changed to that format. Roden questioned the upside of expanding the EDA. Ward noted it would allow business owners and/or residents to be a part of the potential expansion of the downtown area and look for ways to market the City and look for funding opportunities. Mayor Nyenhuis appreciates the work done thus far by Councilmember Ward and would like to continue to talk about the scope of the EDA and would like to continue focusing on the school.

Communication Infrastructure – No Report.

Consent Calendar –

*Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 2/12/21, Treasurer’s Report of 2/21, List of Bills for 3/11/21, Zoning Administrators Report-None, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.*

*Roden-yes*

*Anderson-yes*

*Pardun-yes*

*Ward-yes*

*Nyenhuis – yes*

*Motion passed unanimously*

Old/New Business –

Roden reported on the recent Restoration Society meeting. The group is planning for three projects they would do this year. The restoration of the Gazebo, painting and sheetrock replacement and painting of the upstairs ballroom.

Ward reported on the Canadian Pacific Rail Line request to discontinue all freight along the line going through Marine. There has not been a lot of specific information released as of yet, so there is no word on how this will impact the Osceola excursion train. Pardun noted that the plan

is too not just discontinue the line, but to actually abandon the line.

Clerk Peterson reminded the Council of the Board of Review meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Long/Short Term Goals – Mayor Nyenhuis would like to consider revisiting a welcome committee. He will work with City staff on a brochure/mailer.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment - Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:30pm.

*Ward Yes*

*Roden Yes*

*Pardun yes*

*Anderson yes*

*Nyenhuis yes*

*All in favor, motion passes.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk