

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021

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

Citizens Present: Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow, Glen Mills, Sue Logan, Cecily Harris, Gerry Mroska, Ryan Goodman, Cheryl Johnson, Win Miller, Gayle Knutson, Fitzie Heimdahl, Dan Malmgren, Nancy Cosgriff, Curt Moe, Mary Burke, Dorothy Deetz, Jim Maher, Paul Creager, Jennifer Johnson, Mary Whitaker, Peter Foster, Dennis Reynolds, Mike Tibbetts, Mike Isensee, Leslie McKenzie, Barry Ecklund.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Scott Spisak under Citizen Considerations and add Long/Short Term Goals under Mayor/Clerks Report.*

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

All in favor, motion passes.

Public Hearing – Mayor Nyenhuis opened the public hearing at 7:02 for the purpose of discussing the School Bond Reissuance.

Pardun reviewed the discussion with Security State Bank who has agreed to reduce the interest rate for the current school bond. The overall savings will be approximately \$87,000.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the reissuance of, and amendment to, the economic development authority's \$900,000 lease-revenue bonds for the Marine Community School, Series 2019.

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

All in favor, motion passes

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the First Amendment to lease purchase agreement dated the 1st day of July, 2021 for the purpose of acquiring certain property to be used, in part, as an educational facility which said project is being leased to the City, pursuant to a Lease

Purchase agreement, dated April 30, 2019.

Roden - yes

Anderson - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

All in favor, motion passes

Mayor Nyenhuis closed the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Marla - Jim Maher updated the Council on the upcoming events. The summer programs have begun, along with the summer reading program and beach blanket bingo. The Marine Film Society is requesting the first documentary night will be held at Burriss Park on Thursday September 23rd and requested they have the rental fee waived as it is for the Village Hall. The Council consensus was to let them use the park at no charge.

Win Miller – Village School Update – Mr. Miller presented documentation showing the large and small scale projections for enrollment, along with the projected revenue to the City. There are two upcoming open houses for the public – the first is on July 3rd and the second on July 4th after the parade. There will also be a Marine Elementary alumni gathering that day.

Pardun noted that one of the obligations of the EDA is to pay for building upkeep and maintenance, which is currently coming from the City general fund. Ward thanked Mr. Miller for the data. Mayor Nyenhuis questioned if the committee is in need of community involvement. Mr. Miller noted volunteers could be used for the open houses and July 4th parade.

Mike Tibbetts – Mr. Tibbetts was in attendance to question the removal of trees and vegetation on Maple Street behind the General Store going down to the river. He does not believe that the state of that area was in any way detrimental to the river and does not understand why the work was done. He would like to see the City take a softer approach to its environmental projects. Ward thanked Mr. Tibbetts for his comments and understands his concerns. Mayor Nyenhuis stated there were public meetings on that project and encouraged residents to attend those meetings to be heard.

Utility Box Mural Request - Fizzie Heimdahl presented a new request to create a mural on the utility box at Cecily Harris's property at 710 Broadway St. Currently there are four utility boxes with the mural wraps, all with St. Croix river themes. The funds would need to be raised in order to complete this project as the original grant funds have been used. Jason Crotty mentioned that particular box will most likely be replaced within 7 years. Mr. Heimdahl noted that the warranty of these wraps are 3-5 years. At the point the wraps begin to deteriorate then the City could determine if they wanted to replace them at that time.

Ward moved and Anderson seconded to approve the vinyl wrapping request for the utility box located at 710 Broadway Street.

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

All in favor, motion passes

Scott Spisak – Mr. Spisak questioned the Council agenda and specifically how it changes throughout the week of Council. He questioned if there is a policy for adding items to the agenda and if the packet can be published early with the agenda and not the day of the meeting so the public has a chance to review all of the material in advance. Mayor Nyenhuis noted it has ebbed and flowed in the last couple months. Mr. Spisak also questioned the long/short term goals and how the Council addresses those. Ward responded that last month she suggested holding a workshop at the beginning of each year to address each of the goals. Pardun noted the long/short terms goals have historically been on the agenda and was inadvertently removed when the agenda format was amended. He also believes that some of those items on the goals sheet were added as a citizen request by current and previous Councilmembers and those items should be addressed. Pardun also noted that all citizen items are held to the seven day agenda deadline, however some items added by Council are added a little later due to timelines, however those items should be topics that are expected and not brand new.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska updated the Council on the May meeting. The public hearing for the wireless communications ordinance will be held on June 29th at 7:30pm at the school. He believes there seems to be very little interest in the cell tower ordinance and is concerned there be very little attendance at the hearing. Pardun stated how important it is for residents to be engaged in this topic and voice their opinion regarding of which way they are leaning. Roden questioned if the City would provide the meeting notice to private businesses if requested. Clerk Peterson advised the City would provide that notice to anyone who requests it. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested sending out a specific mailing to all residents regarding the public hearing to make sure citizens are aware and have the opportunity to either attend or submit their comments via email.

All future Commission meetings will be held in person rather than Zoom.

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren reported the new washer and dryer at the fire hall has been installed and the project came in under budget. A DNR grant was applied for the SCBA's that will need replacing this year. Mayor Nyenhuis requested an update on recruitment. Participation had decreased during COVID but is slowly recovering. Recruitment is mostly word of mouth, and many of the people interested are only one dimensional and the need is for people to do both fire and rescue. The other issue is demographic and the need for younger members.

Anderson reported there have been multiple siting's of a cougar and bears. The cougar is not a resident cougar and they do travel long distances within the St. Croix Valley. The bear is most likely a two year old bear and is taking advantage of the many food sources. In order to prevent

the bear from being relocated or euthanized, residents should remove the food sources and not make the bear feel at home.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineers Report. The three local watershed districts are evaluating approaches to conducting a floodplain mapping and floodplain risk assessment. Mayor Nyenhuis questioned the need for this assessment. Goodman stated the recent rain events, coupled with increasing development are causing stormwater and flooding issues and creating a need to figure out ways to mitigate the water.

Dresel contracting has submitted a request for payment number five in the amount of \$116,124.26.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the pay request to Dresel Contracting in the amount of \$116,124.26 as recommended by Bolton Menk which includes the 5% retainage.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

Anderson – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

All in favor motion passed.

Pardun reported that the base coat of asphalt has been placed downtown and there has been damage to that base coat from motorcycle kickstands. His concern is when the wear course is put down, the kickstands will cause severe damage to that new asphalt. Pardun has discussed this with Public Works and the Brookside and has suggested the City provide pads along the Judd street and on Parker Street for use by the motorcycles. This will be done for the upcoming weekend to see how well they are used prior to placing the final wear course. The original timeline for the wear course was late June, however Pardun is proposing putting that off until September. This will cause an increase in cost however, due to cost of materials and continued use of signage. This will be approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 but he believes it will be beneficial in the long run. Dresel has also requested the 5% retainage be reduced to 1% which Pardun feels is okay. Pardun also submitted a proposed ordinance prohibiting motorcycles on downtown streets, which would have to be enforced by Washington County. Mayor Nyenhuis received a complaint from a resident regarding the need for striping downtown and noted that putting off the final wear course would delay the striping until fall. Pardun is concerned about the lip between the asphalt and curbing and suggested adding a yellow stripe temporarily until the wear course is placed. Ward does not believe the pads will be successful unless signs are placed by the Brookside. The pads will be placed in buckets alongside the road to make them easily accessible to the motorcyclists. This would need to be done for two years until the asphalt is firm enough to withstand the kickstands. Scott Spisak questioned the asphalt specs and whether the warranty would be same for the contract if the timeline for the wear course was changed. Ryan Goodman stated it would not affect the warranty at all. Pardun is recommending the delay of the wear course because he believes enforcing an ordinance would very difficult. Mayor Nyenhuis is in favor of the approving the ordinance and purchasing signs rather than put off the wear course and

spending an additional \$8,000. Anderson is very concerned about the enforcement and believes Washington County will also have concerns about enforcement of the ordinance. Because of this, Anderson is in favor of waiting to place the wear course until September. Roden questioned the process to do that route. Pardun stated the Council would make a consensus tonight to wait on the wear course and then at the July meeting, approve the official change orders for the contractors. Ward, Roden, Anderson and Pardun are in support of waiting on the wear course and Mayor Nyenhuis not in favor.

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec –

Citizen Committee Resolution Amendment – Ward submitted a document outlining what a trails, open space and natural resources committee would entail under the current citizen committee resolution. She is requesting feedback from the Council on the document so in July she can formally bring forth the request. Mayor Nyenhuis believes the committee number is too large and would like to see eight or less, and also a term of the committee members laid out.

Pardun believes there is overlap in the idea proposed by Councilmember Ward and the upcoming agenda item by Mayor Nyenhuis, which both involve parks and rec. He would like to hear from the residents as to whether these are needed and what the residents would like to see. Mayor Nyenhuis believes after the discussion of residents not engaging, he doesn't see a public meeting being successfully attended. He believes that since the City does not have a Chamber of Commerce, then a committee could be created to tackle some of the vitalization topics of the downtown. This would be a way to look at the hospitality side versus the structural side. Ward does not believe the two ideas are related at all and would like to keep it separate from the idea proposed by Mayor Nyenhuis. Pardun believes there is value in public meetings and the public has not had a chance to digest what is being proposed or provide input. Pardun is also concerned about the funding of many of these projects. He believes the City should prioritize infrastructure, the Village Hall and staff should be the priority of the City. Mayor Nyenhuis believes these resolutions are to bring the City in line with the Comprehensive Plan. Anderson requested a point of order on Councilmember Wards agenda item. The Council had no additional comments on that item. Mayor Nyenhuis noted that his resolution proposal is for review only at this time and would like to table both until the July meeting.

Scott Spisak reported that the body of both of those proposals seem to point to the Planning Commission as being the responsible party for the action items listed in the proposals. Anderson does not agree that the Commission has responsibility for those items at all. Spisak noted the responsibility of the Commission is duly stated in the City Code.

Millsite – No Report .

Cemetery – There has been some tree removal. Mayor Nyenhuis stated the cemetery looked great for Memorial Day

City Properties– No further report.

Water Systems – No Report.

Citizen Committee Reports –

Urban Forest – The White Pines were gone within a day and the tamaracks are doing well in the gravel bed.

Green Step Cities – Leslie McKenzie presented information on the EV Charger. The proposed location would be on Maple and Third Street to the north of the electric pole. There were two estimates received. The estimate for a level 2 charger would be between \$8,897 to \$10,125 and a lever 2 charger would be \$8,900 for just the equipment and the installation, software and connectivity would be extra.

The Clerk is working on setting up a workshop date.

Holidays/Events – The parade is set for July 4th. Roden requested the Marine Mills Day be moved to Saturday from Sunday.

EDA – There will be a meeting immediately following the Council meeting.

Communication Infrastructure – The committee is continuing to be engaged with the Commission and has some concerns with a couple of sections of the proposed ordinance.

Consent Calendar –

*Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/11/21
Treasurer's Report of 6/21, List of Bills for 6/10/21, 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 –

Volunteer Fair – Mayor Nyenhuis submitted a proposed to hold a volunteer fair for local organizations to attend and solicit volunteers. This would be upstairs on Monday, June 28th. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to send a mailed notice to residents for both this and the cell tower meeting. The Council consensus was to move forward on both items.

Park Rental Waiver – Paddle Craft Show – Mayor Nyenhuis is working with Bill Simpson to put on a Paddle Craft show in Burris Park on July 6th and is hoping to have the park rental fee waived.

Ward moved and Anderson seconded to waive the Burris Park rental fee for the 2021 July 6th Paddle Craft Show.

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Ward – yes

Roden – yes

Nyenhuis – abstained

Motion passed.

Bench Request – An email was received from woman whose parents were Scandia residents but loved Marine and is requesting to place a memorial bench somewhere along the river trail behind the General Store. Anderson suggested the top of the trail may need a canoe rack with a memorial plaque would work. Ward suggested having Ms. Harley talk with the Mill Site committee. After further discussion, Mayor Nyenhuis stated he does not believe this is an actionable Council item.

Clerk Peterson presented the torte liability waiver, which is part of the annual insurance renewal. The recommendation is for Council to not waive the torte liability, which would place a cap on the amount a person can collect if the City were to be sued.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to not waive the torte liability

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Ward – yes

Roden – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Motion passed

Long/Short Term Goals – No Update

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Clerk Peterson reported on a sewer backup on St. Croix Trail. This backup was caused by the resident flushing items that are prohibited in the City Code and is requesting approval to bill back the repair cost to the resident.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the bill back of sewer repair charges to the resident responsible.

Pardun – yes

Anderson – yes

Ward – yes

Roden – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Motion passed

Pardun questioned if the Council will continue to meet in person and Questioned how the council plans to move forward with Zoom. Mayor Nyenhuis advised the meetings will be in person moving forward and will discuss the Zoom option with City Clerk.

Adjournment - Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 9:27pm.

Ward Yes

Roden Yes

Pardun yes

Anderson yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk