

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 8, 2021

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

Citizens Present: Kristina Smitten, John Goodfellow, Scott Spisak, Larry Martin, Mary Skamser, Gerry Mroska, Jim Maher, Glen Mills, Leslie McKenzie, Mike Isensee, Tom Omdahl, Anna Hagstrom, Nancy Cosgriff, Jennifer Johnson, Kitzie Vadheim, Jeff Comins, Dorothy Deetz, Cheryl Johnson, Brandon Schwartz, Tom Warth, Andy Creager.

Approval of the Agenda - Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Kristina Smitten under Citizen Considerations and to move Anna Hagstrom up on the agenda.

Anderson - yes

Ward - yes

Pardun - yes

Nyenhuis - yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations

Mike Isensee - Mr. Isensee was in attendance to update the Council on the Watershed Management Plan Draft. Work continues to get local lakes off of the impaired list, and additional lakes such as Square, Carnelian and Big Marine are on the radar for diminished clarity and are being looked at. Ward questioned how the Watershed plans to restore the Mill stream and the Marine Landing stream. Mr. Isensee stated there will be an evaluation of those streams and then doing whatever work is necessary to improve the grading of those streams. There will also an extensive evaluation of the Millstream. Mayor Nyenhuis believes much of the local education was lost when Millstream Days went away, and would like to see the Watershed more involved in community events. The full plan will be out for the public as of August 14th and will be open for a 60-day period.

Anna Hagstrom - Ms. Hagstrom is looking to open a restaurant in the corner building of the Lumberyard Shops. As part of the business plan, she would be looking for a wine license and a combination on sale/off sale license. Ward noted that code requires any applicant have a minimum of five years of restaurant experience, and her resume doesn't show that experience. Ms. Hagstrom stated she has experience in wine and liquor serving experience, along with multiple culinary classes. Mayor Nyenhuis questioned how the Council feels about this requirement not quite being met. Pardun noted that the Council has the ability to grant the license regardless, however noted that is setting a precedence. Anderson believes the experience that Ms. Hagstrom has fits the bill and no additional concerns. Pardun questioned what licenses were available. Currently there is a wine license available and one discretionary license. Ms. Hagstrom is requesting the wine license and the on sale/off sale combination license. Clerk Peterson will work with Ms. Hagstrom in the application process and background check.

Scott Spisak - Mr. Spisak is concerned with the time that citizens are given to request a spot on the agenda when the agenda isn't posted until 7 days prior to the meeting and the packet isn't posted until 2 days prior to the meeting. He believes most boards allow for an open forum and do not require advanced sign up for citizens and would like to see the packet posted earlier.

Kristina Smitten - Ms. Smitten echoed Mr. Spisak's comments but is also frustrated on the process of committees and roles of those citizens. Ms. Smitten is currently a volunteer on the Planning Commission and would like to clarify the role of the Planning Commission, which is basically everything land use related. She believes the committee that was presented last meeting regarding parks and trails planning is something the Commission should have been consulted on and that the Council should bring the Commission is on the creation of a committee like that. She is also concerned that many of the citizen committees' roles are either not clearly defined and or held to the initial task they were created to do. Pardun noted an earlier concern was with the Village Center committee and that they did not stay within their initial task. The Council does not want to diminish the work they are doing, however they need to stay within the boundaries they were tasked with and appreciates Ms. Smitten's comments. Anderson agrees with many of those points and will address those issues during the communication infrastructure committee update. Nancy Cosgriff believes the Village Center committee was created to be advisory to the Council and was ideal to the tasks they were given. Mayor Nyenhuis appreciates citizens showing up and expressing their concerns and will look for ways to improve communications.

Jim Maher - Mr. Maher addressed a book shelf that was placed in the lobby however was secured to the wall and that was done without the consensus of the Council. The lobby is currently being painted and there is a question of whether that large of a book shelf is needed. Pardun agrees with Mayor Nyenhuis that he isn't sure something that large is needed and questioned is the securing to the wall is a safety issue. Mayor Nyenhuis questioned if a cart could serve the same purpose but would be mobile if needed. Mr. Maher is concerned that something mobile might get taken and would like to see the book shelf to remain. Pardun would like Marla to check with the Restoration Society about securing it to the wall and if they are okay with it, then the Council would be fine with it. There was also a question of leaving the library door open during City business hours and would like it to stay open for air flow. Pardun would like the door to remain closed as he doesn't like the hall to be blocked during City office hours. Mayor Nyenhuis agreed with Councilmember Pardun.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska updated the Council on the June meeting. The Commission held the public hearing on the wireless communications ordinance and the Commission should have the final draft ready for Council in the near future. Anderson believes the hearing went very well, and believes there is some language that could be revised, but will leave that up to the discretion of the Commission.

Fire and Rescue - The new washer and dryer has been installed. Mayor Nyenhuis noted there were parking issues on July 4th for the parade and this should be addressed for next year. Anderson was under the understanding that a parking and public safety plan was supposed to have been put together and that will be taken under consideration for next year. Dorothy Deetz, resident, was a former member of the holiday committee and when they realized there would be issues with

parking, went to the maintenance shop to get no parking signs to help where they could. Ms. Deetz also believes there should be discussion about whether to continue the fireworks and if there was an impact on local businesses. Larry Martin, resident, questioned the number of alarm calls listed from Washington County on Judd Street. The majority of those calls are for the Village Hall and is due to a glitch in the line, however those calls are not triggering a response from the Fire Department.

Roads - Pardun reviewed the Engineers report as Mr. Goodman could not be in attendance. Dresel contracting has submitted the paperwork for the requested change order to move the final wear course until September in the amount of \$3,000. Ward questioned how the kick stand pads are working. Pardun noted that the Brookside has put out signs and the motorcycles were using the pads initially, but will also be placing larger signs by pad boxes for education purposes. He isn't sure what September will hold, but is optimistic that people will comply and also believes that local residents and Council members can help to remind the bikers if they are around the area during the weekends. Deetz believes the Council made the right decision to wait on the final wear course and also began placing the pads around and talking to the bikers to help educate them.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the change order #1 for Dresel Contracting in the amount of \$3,000 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Pardun-yes

Ward-yes

Anderson - yes

Nyenhuis - yes

All in favor motion passed.

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec - Ward presented a final proposal for the creation of a trails, open space and natural resources committee. This committee would work to build, maintain and manage trails, open spaces and natural resources. The committee would consist of 6-10 citizens and the life of the committee would be five years. Ward would bring the names of the citizens interested forward next month. Anderson would like to see a Planning Commission member as a liaison of the committee also. Pardun is concerned that once the committee brings forth a plan and the Council opts to not move forward with those ideas, then the committee members will feel hurt. Pardun is also concerned that the committee discusses the Comprehensive Plan and would not be in favor of any ideas that would require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Pardun also noted there are trail maps that have already been created and are on GPS, and is very concerned that river access points not be publicized, as many of those access points are next to private property. He is also concerned that committee does not promote summertime tourism, as the town is very crowded as is and would like to see winter activities promoted instead. Mayor Nyenhuis believes the Comprehensive Plan only involved a small number of citizen input and there are many new citizens in town and that the committee could begin to look for input for the future Comprehensive Plan. He also believes that weekend tourism does not need to increase, but weekday and winter tourism could be highlighted. John Goodfellow believes there is an active

management strategy is needed for these resources and supports this committee. Scott Spisak questioned the accountability point, and that the meetings of the committee are noticed and Minutes are kept and submitted to Council. Ward agreed with Mr. Spisak. Tom Omdahl noted there is a trails committee with the Mill Site and would like to see a coordinated effort. Kristina Smitten would like to clarify the decision-making process for these committees, including grants etc. and that should be clear between the committee and Council.

Ward moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Trails, open space and natural resources committee as amended to include a Planning Commission member.

Ward-yes

Nyenhuis - yes

Anderson - yes

Pardun-yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Millsite - No Update.

Cemetery - No Report.

City Properties -The re-bonding of the school lease has been completed.

Water Systems - Pardun recapped the sewer workshop discussion which was held prior to the Council meeting. There will be letters going out to the residents on the City system, along with a couple of public meetings in order to update them on the plan and receive input. Anderson noted that Public Works, along with the City Engineer, Councilmember Pardun and former Mayor Mills did an excellent job on getting the information together on the system and the work they have done. Ward noted that Public Works spends almost 50% of their work time on the septic system. Mayor Mills suggested a bonding request be brought up to the local legislators now as there will be a bonding bill next year and it would be good to get the ball rolling.

Citizen Committee Reports -

Urban Forest - No Report.

Green Step Cities - There will be a workshop on July 19th at 6:00pm.

Holidays/Events - Councilmember Roden is requesting \$600 for a band at the Marine Mills soiree event. There was discussion as to whether the description of the event listed in the newsletter hinted at the event going back to the Founder's Day theme, rather than a celebration of all people and dates. The assistant Clerk believes that may have been an oversight of proofing and unfortunately Councilmember Roden was not in attendance to address.

Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to approve the \$600 request for music at the Marine Mills event.

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

All in favor, motion passed

EDA - No report.

Communication Infrastructure - Anderson reviewed the history of the cell tower issue, and how the City was approached by Powder Ridge and Vinco which is what prompted the creation of the infrastructure committee, and clarified that the committee was not created to solicit cell tower companies or potential sites. It was the companies that approached the City with the compost site and maintenance shop sites in mind. The committee and the City Council are very open to any potential site that may be suitable for a tower. The committee was a few meetings for which there were Minutes, and additional work done by individual committee members. He believes there has been some miscommunication and unintended messaging throughout the process, but believes the continued feedback of the committee members to the Planning Commission members has been good. There are some concerns the propagation mapping was not taken into consideration with the language of the ordinance, however that is something the Council will have to discuss. Anderson thanked the Planning Commission members and Communication members for their hard work on this issue.

Consent Calendar -

*Pardun moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/10/21
Treasurer's Report of 6/21, List of Bills for 7/8/21, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works
Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes,*

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

Old/New Business - None

Long/Short Term Goals - No Change

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report- Mayor Nyenhuis reviewed the agenda publishing timeline along with the packet publishing date being the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Anderson doesn't believe this City can be compared to other Cities and that having the packet available the Tuesday prior to the meeting is sufficient. Discussion was held regarding how to handle citizen comments during the meeting. Pardun believes going to Zoom messed up the process some, but historically the citizens have been allowed to speak and ask questions during the meeting. Nyenhuis believes citizens should be speaking to Council members outside of the meeting as a rule in order to keep the meeting from dragging on. Anderson believes at most meetings, there is a signup sheet and a time limit for citizens to speak and believes it's really up to the Mayor on how to handle this issue. Mayor Nyenhuis encourages residents to button up their comments and pre-dialog with a Council member prior to the meeting and let City staff know by the Tuesday prior to the meeting if they would like to speak if possible.

Mayor Nyenhuis read a statement regarding the impending court hearing regarding 801 Pine Cone trail. The court date is July 9th and the links are on the website.

Mayor Nyenhuis reported on the volunteer fair. It was very well attended and thank all of the participants and Linda Tibbetts.

The street sweeper contest has a tie between two votes, La Broomba and Fritz the Mondale are the two names. All votes should be submitted in writing and placed in the City drop box outside of the Village Hall

Adjournment - Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:03pm.

Ward Yes

Pardun yes

Anderson yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk