

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 12, 2021

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

Citizens Present:

Barry Ecklund, Larry Roden, Chris Strand, Mary Whitaker, Tom Boesel, John Goodfellow, Gerry Mroska, Tod Drescher, Glen Mills, Cecilly Harris, Kristina Smitten, Robin Brooksbank, Leslie McKenzie, Win Miller, Curt Moe, Dan Malmgren, Roger Lyle, Jeff Comins, Christie Forcica, Jennifer Henry, John Norusis, Brandon Schwartz.

Approval of the Agenda – *Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.*

Roden - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations

Win Miller – Marine Village School – Mr. Miller reported that a letter was received from the Department of Education identifying several weaknesses in the charter school application. The authorizer believes they can respond positively and Mr. Miller is optimistic. There is currently interest from 107 potential students, with additional interest coming from families in Stillwater. A final decision should be reached by September 16th.

Christie Forcica – Ms. Forcica is the Brookside Bar and Grill manager. She is interested in partnering with JRod's Automotive to host a classic car show every Tuesday through October. The plan would be to have people bring donations each week such as school supplies, clothing, hats and mittens, etc. Mayor Nyenhuis noted events like this can scale up very quickly, and would like to make sure public safety is considered and would like to see how the first two shows go before approving the timeline through October. Ryan Goodman, City Engineer, noted that the final wear course paving will begin September 13th which may impact the event. Christie suggested holding shows the last two Tuesdays in August and the first Tuesday in September and then the Council can evaluate at the September council meeting. Lon would like a check in after the second event and if there have been issues, then put it on hold until the September meeting. Christie suggested limiting the number of cars to 10-15 and only advertising the event on a week to week basis. The Council was comfortable with that plan.

The Brookside is hosting a buyout for a large party and the group would like to host outdoor music from 5-7pm. This would be held on a Thursday evening and there would be approximately 150 people in attendance. Mayor Nyenhuis isn't in favor of amplified music on a weeknight and suggested acoustic instead.

Robin Brooksbank – Ms. Brooksbank updated the Council on the folk school events. There will be a welcome back event on October 2nd, with a baseball game, sheep herding and food trucks. There will be a very small art fair, and Ms. Brooksbank is requesting the school gym as a back up plan for weather. The school also has the new air filtering system, which will be beneficial with Covid. The Council was fine with that request.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla was in attendance to report on the July meeting. The Commission reviewed the comments from the wireless communications public hearing and has presented a final draft to the Council with the recommendation for approval. Mayor Nyenhuis thanked the Commission for their hard work and believes they did an amazing job. Pardun believes the process went very well and would like to sit on the ordinance for a bit and discuss the RFP process before making a decision. Councilmember Ward thanked the commission and infrastructure committee for their hard work during the entire process. The Commission is recommending a consultant to assist with the RFP process and is looking for guidance from the Council. Pardun believes having Carly Kehoe assist with the RFP is a good idea and suggested using the CARES funding to pay for it. He would like to have the Planning Commission committee assist with the process and have the RFP ready for the September meeting. Council member Anderson was unable to attend, however submitted his written support for the ordinance as drafted and the retention of Ms. Kehoe to assist with the RFP.

Chairman Mrosla noted there is a currently a vacant position for Ron Brenner who has recently resigned, and he would like to fill that seat immediately. Then at the end of the year, there will several more positions that will be up, so he feels the City should post those vacancies as soon as possible. Chairman Mrosla is also requesting the Council review and move forward on adopting the zoning code revisions. Ward questioned if a workshop is needed to address the amended items with the Commission. Clerk Peterson will set up a workshop for late September.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to obtain the services of Carly Kehoe to assist with the RFP process for a cost not to exceed \$6,500.

Roden – yes

Pardun – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren will be discussing potential budget item additions with Council member Anderson prior to the budget meeting. There have been no wild fires in our area. The street dance will be October 2nd.

Roads – Ryan Goodman was in attendance, along with Marcus Johnson who will be covering for Ryan at a few upcoming meetings. The wear course paving will begin September 13th. The floodplain risk assessment public review begins August 15th. Washington County is expanding their Capital Improvement Plan, and asked the Council to bring any comments to him in the near

future. Ward questioned the small cities assistance funding. The City will receive approximately \$22,000 from the State in funding which is to be used for road maintenance and upgrades. Roden questioned if there will be a meeting with local businesses regarding the wear course work. Goodman noted there will be notifications sent out ahead of time, and there will be a meeting the week prior.

Ward had a conversation with Mike Isensee of the Watershed District and wanted to remind the public that there will be a volunteer planting day on August 21st.

Pardun presented a proposed sign that he would like to place around town reminding the motorcyclists to use kickstand pads.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the contractor's pay request #6 to Dresel Contracting in the amount of \$64,821.12 as recommended by Bolton Menk.

Pardun – yes

Ward – yes

Roden – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

All in favor motion passed.

Personnel - No Report .

Parks & Rec – Ward presented an information packet for the Trails, open space and natural resources committee candidates and is looking for Council feedback. She would like to post the opening tomorrow, with a submission deadline of September 3rd. That would give the Council time to review the applications and then the Council would meet at 6pm on Thursday, September 9th prior to the Council meeting to go over the applications. The hope is to appoint 5-8 committee members, including one youth and one Jackson Meadow resident. Pardun noted that Council member Anderson included in the motion last month to include a Planning Commission member as part of the committee and would like to see the application reflect that. Pardun is also concerned that the Jackson Meadow neighborhood is called out specifically in the call for applicants rather than just all neighborhood residents. Ward believes the Jackson Meadow's land management as a private stake holder would be a benefit given the size of the property. Mayor Nyenhuis believes the Commission member does not need to be called out on the application and that the Commission can just choose their liaison. He is also in support of a Jackson Meadow resident being on the committee.

Millsite – No Report .

Cemetery – No Report.

City Properties –

Water Systems – Pardun reported on the water retention pond on the north end of Judd Street.

There was over 9 inches of rain over the course of a week, and the pond was full. After speaking with Mike Isensee of the Watershed, the drain on that pond was not opened by the contractor and so the pond was not draining as it should have. The drain was then opened and the pond drained as expected. Pardun stated those retention ponds should be completely drained after 48 hours of filling.

Pardun and Ward are currently meeting with residents that have an on site septic systems as discussed at the workshop.

Citizen Committee Reports –

Urban Forest – A grant is being applied for to address Emerald Ash Borer.

Green Step Cities – .There was a workshop held to discuss various items the committee would like to pursue. There will be a Dark Sky event in September at the school.

Holidays/Events – Roden is having a meeting tomorrow evening at the gazebo to discuss Marine Mills day. She is looking for prize donations, cakes for the cake walk, etc.. There is currently no band but there will be some form of music. The date has also been confirmed for August 28th.

EDA – No report.

Communication Infrastructure – No additional Report.

Consent Calendar –

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the Minutes of 7/8/21, and sewer workshop Treasurer's Report of 7/21, List of Bills for 8/12/21, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes,

Roden-yes

Pardun-yes

Ward-yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Motion passed unanimously:

Old/New Business –

Memorial Request – A request was made to place a memorial somewhere in the City in memory of Dwight Gibson. The Council recently had another request for a memorial for which they declined. Pardun agreed that there really is no place to continue to put these memorials, and suggested a donation to the Restoration Society or Civic Club. The City might look into a way to address these requests in the future. A suggestion was made to contact Marla as a possible outlet. Mayor Nyenhuis will respond to the family.

Washington County Historical Society – The Historical Society has previously made a request

for funding to help with their new building and it was left out of the 2021 budget. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested the City send a \$3,000 donation out of the general fund this year. The discussion previously was to commit \$3,000 for a five year period. Ward is not in favor of the donation and would like to make that commitment to our City instead. Discussion was held on the fact that the previous Council had already made the commitment to the \$3,000 for a five year period and whether the City wants to go back on that prior commitment. If the Council chooses to back out of that agreement, that would be a separate discussion and motion.

Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to pay the first installment of the historical society donation out of the 2021 budget.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Long/Short Term Goals –

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – Clerk Peterson advised she will be absent from the October Council meeting.

Councilmember Anderson noted he will be meeting with Woody McBride to discuss a potential music programming in Burriss Park for next year.

Barry Ecklund, Marine resident, questioned if there has been any discussion about cancelling the fireworks permanently. Mayor Nyenhuis noted there has been no formal discussion as of yet. Mr. Ecklund believes the crowds have gotten too large in the past years, and that the traffic is a big public safety issue. Mayor Nyenhuis thanked Mr. Ecklund for his comments and noted that this will be discussed as we get into budget time. Ward noted she will be discussing this issue with Dorothy Deetz also.

Adjournment -

Mayor Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:37pm.

Ward Yes

Pardun yes

Roden yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk