

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 9, 2021

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

Citizens Present: Ryan Goodman, Glen Mills, Dan Malmgren, Chris Strand, Jody Nyenhuis, Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Leslie McKenzie, Mary Skamser, Win Miller, Patti/Mark Kraske, Liz Kelly, Mike Tibbetts, Dana Vannen.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.*

Roden - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

Anderson - yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations – Mike Tibbetts noted the enchanted forest signage states November and December. He would like to suggest leaving everything up through February. Roden stated that the forest is a community event rather than a City event. The decorations come down at the end of December however the trees will remain until the frost is out of the ground. There was no stated timeline for the removal of the log cabin but the Mayor will work with Councilmember Roden to discuss keeping that until February as well.

Brookside Pull Tab Vendor Change Request – The Brookside Bar and Grill has submitted a request to change their pull tab vendor from Forest Lake to the American Legion Post 48. The City has received the new application and everything seems to be in order.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the American Legion, Post 48, as the new lawful gambling vendor for the Brookside Bar and Grill.

Nyenhuis – yes

Anderson – yes

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Planning Commission - Scott Spisak reported on the November meeting. The Commission will review the DNR comments on the zoning code amendments in January. This will be an extensive process and will most likely take a few months to complete. The Commission is also willing to work with the City on the cemetery expansion project as it relates to land use.

A CUP request was made for an accessory apartment in an accessory building. The Commission is recommending approval.

CUP Request – David Drysdale/Mary Uppgren – The applicants are requesting a bathroom facility in their garage. The Commission is recommending approval with the condition that there be a bathroom but not a kitchen.

Roden moved and Ward seconded to approve Planning Case 113021-01 to approve an accessory apartment in an accessory building for 871 Judd Street, David Drysdale and Mary Uppgren.

Roden - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

Anderson - yes

All in favor, motion passed

Spisak also noted that there have reports of vehicles driving on one of the trails by Jackson Meadow requested the City considered placing a sign at the entrance. The Council will look into.

Public Safety – Chief Malmgren is waiting to see how the weather holds in order to start flooding the rink.

There are three members of the department who will be retiring at the end of the year. A department meeting was held with department members and Councilmember Anderson to discuss various items. Recruitment was discussed as numbers continue to decline and the department is desperately looking new ways to recruit and retain members. One way the group thought would help morale was to improve the fitness equipment for the fire hall. There were funds available in the budget and those funds were used to purchase a new treadmill, rowing machine and fitness trainer. Additional equipment could be purchased in 2022.

There will be a crime trend article published in the newsletter and put on the website as a reminder for residents.

Comments were received from a few Planning Commission members on the special events and permitting, which was greatly appreciated. Anderson will continue to pull information together over the next couple months and will bring forth to Council at that time.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed his engineers report.

Dresel Contracting Pay Request – The final payment to Dresel for the Judd Street project is being requested.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the final payment to Dresel Contracting in the amount of \$27,976.87.

Roden - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

Anderson - yes

Motion passed unanimously

Personnel - Pardun reviewed the suggestion by Mr. Mills from the TNT meeting for an essential workers bonus with Mayor Nyenhuis and they agreed a bonus will be paid out at the January meeting.

Parks & Rec – Ward reported a walk through happened on the Mill Site with the Historical Society and is looking forward to a report.

Cemetery – No Report.

City Properties – No Report.

Water Systems – Pardun and the City Clerk are working with the City Attorney on amending the City Code Sewer ordinance and will present to Council in the near future.

Will be working with Jackson Meadow on a budget for the water system.

Citizen Committee Reports– Mayor Nyenhuis drafted a letter to resident Anne Reich who has recently stepped away from two committees and thanked her for her work for the City.

Urban Forest – No Report.

Green Step Cities – No Report.

Holidays/Events – Waiting to hear from the pyrotechnic company on the fireworks.

Ward congratulated Councilmember Roden and Mayor Nyenhuis on the enchanted forest event and noted she would like to see more lights added to the larger mature trees in the park to help attract more people to town. Roden noted that the smaller Christmas trees are supposed to be the focal point of the park and believes those, along with the tree in the Gazebo and the one large tree that is lit is enough to attract people. Mayor Nyenhuis believes to add lights to brighten it at night would be a significant amount of lights and thinks that would be more of a work in progress.

EDA – No report.

Communication Infrastructure – There were a few updates to the City website to make additional information available to residents.

Cell Tower RFP – Two proposals were received, one from Vinco and one from TowerCo. The committee reviewed those proposals and came up with a few additional questions. Vinco responded, however after three attempts trying to contact TowerCo, did not receive a response. Pardun is requesting

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to authorize the communications committee, consisting of Dana Vannen, Ed Sanderson, Kristina Smitten, Council member Pardun and Council member Anderson to negotiate a contract with Vinco on behalf of the City of Marine.

Roden - yes

Ward -yes

Pardun -yes

Nyenhuis -yes

Anderson - yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar – .

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/10/21, Treasurer's Report of 11/21, List of Bills for 12/9/21, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes, Liquor License renewals, Pull Tab vendor request, cigarette license, polling place designation and STR license renewals.

Roden-yes

Pardun-yes

Ward-yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Anderson - yes

Motion passed unanimously:

Old/New Business –

Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to approve the 2021 Reserve fund proposal as drafted.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Anderson - yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to set the 2022 levy at \$982,063.74 which represents a 4.22% increase over 2021.

Pardun – yes

Roden – yes

Ward – yes

Nyenhuis – yes

Anderson - yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Resident Survey Results – Ward thanked the residents for completing the resident survey indicating how they would like to see City funds spent. The results are listed on the website.

Citizen of the Year – Clerk Peterson requested nominations for the 2021 Citizen of the Year. All nominations will be compiled for Council consideration at the January meeting.

Council Response to Resident Communication – Ward questioned how to respond to resident communications. Any response could be sent directly to the resident with the City office copied in, and the Clerk will then forward the response to the rest of the Council.

Long/Short Term Goals – Ward is requesting a workshop in January to review the long and short term goals. Clerk Peterson will send out a meeting request to get that scheduled. Pardun would like to see the workshop happen in February when Councilmember Anderson is back.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Mayor Nyenhuis noted the amount of time public works is spending picking up dog feces. Kitzie Vadheim suggested the City move on Councilmembers Anderson's earlier suggestion to purchase a dog feces disposal system. Councilmember Ward noted that other Cities have dog parks which supply bags for people to use to collect their dog feces. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested the City look into dispenser options and bring those suggestions back to Council.

Adjournment -

Pardun moved and Mayor Nyenhuis seconded to adjourn at 7:58pm.

Ward Yes

Pardun yes

Roden yes

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk