

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 10, 2022

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

Citizens Present: Glen Mills, Dan Malmgren, Scott Spisak, Kristina Smitten, Harold Teasdale
Zoom: Nancy Cosgriff, Ryan Goodman, Fizzie Heimdahl, Mark Kraske, Patte Kraske, Cheryl Johnson, Liz Kelly, Roger Lyle, Win Miller, Leslie MacKenzie, Marine Community Library, Jennifer Henry, Dorothy Deetz.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda. All in favor. Approved unanimously.*

Citizens Considerations

Billy McLaughlin – Summer Outdoor Concert Proposal

Mr. McLaughlin was in attendance to ask for approval to host two outdoor concerts in Marine, between Village Hall and the General Store. No street closures would be required. One would be in spring and one in early fall, around the harvest. He's looking at Fridays, which don't conflict with other outdoor music. Nyenhuis noted that McLaughlin is also asking to use the city's chairs and the event would prevent the hall from being rented to anyone else. He noted that the council is in favor of bringing events to town and would like to work with him on this. Anderson referred to Chapter 26 in the city code - outdoor events require review by the public safety department and ultimate approval by the mayor or council. McLaughlin noted he has general liability insurance (\$3 million policy). Anderson will reach out to McLaughlin and hopes to have a plan before council next month. Permitting fees for outdoor entertainment will apply and be part of the process.

Jim Maher – Marine Community Library Update

Mr. Maher reported that the library is back to open hours and is hosting virtual events. 90+ people attended the last event and another 90+ watched over the course of the following week. However, they've been limited in their ability to hold fundraising events. Regarding the Jordan Bequest, Washington County missed about \$12,000 in interest that will be going back into the Jordan Bequest. They'll also reimburse the bequest for money taken out to install the county book drop outside the library.

Fizzie Heimdahl - Utility Box Art

Mr. Heimdahl reviewed the Power of the St. Croix Utility Box Mural Project. Most funding in 2018 came from a grant, but the City dedicated \$500 to the project. Four more boxes have been approved by the council, and the application process will be run through ArtReach. The theme will be the St. Croix River. Total project cost will be \$3,500, for vinyl wrap material, installation, and artist stipends. Heimdahl has raised \$1,122 from the community through ArtReach; \$400 from a Wild Rivers Conservancy Grant; \$1,000 from the Scandia-Marine Lions Club. He asked whether the city would be willing to fund the remaining amount. Ward asked if they could contribute \$500 over two years. Anderson said he'd like to talk with the city clerk to find out where the funds would be taken from. Anderson proposed doing more research into the budget

and coming back next month. Nyenhuis noted that one box would be replaced soon, so that could help delay the need for some funding.

Win Miller - Marine Village School Update

The school is open for enrollment and continuing to promote. They haven't heard anything about their program grant application. Lon Pardun noted the city is working on a lease with the city attorney.

Planning Commission

January Meeting Update – Acting Chair Scott Spisak reported that Vinco attended the commission's January meeting for a preapplication meeting. They reviewed the requirements of the ordinance and tried to make sure Vinco understood what they'd need for their application. The commission is working through the feedback from the DNR on the Zoning Code updates, and have made it a top priority so that the code can get approved. Spisak noted the changes would have significant impacts on property owners.

The commission's other priorities for this year are 5G design guidelines, checking consistency between the comp plan and zoning code, and addressing lot area requirements, for which they'll need council feedback. In 2023 they hope to work on solar. Ward asked if they would need help from a consultant. Spisak said possibly. They're not to that point yet, but some of the topics are very complex.

Mr. Spisak announced that the commission had appointed him to act as chair until Mrosla's return from Florida in spring. Anderson expressed concern about whether decisions made under an acting chair could be called into question. Spisak noted that all decisions are voted on by the commission. Commissioner Smitten said that as long as the council acknowledged Spisak as acting chair, it would be authorized.

Anderson moved to recognize Commissioner Scott Spisak to act as chair as necessary with Gerry Mrosla retaining chair actual. Roden seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Council Reports

Public Safety – Chief Malmgren reported that January was busy with 13 runs. Seven is average. The department is in the process of onboarding two more volunteers: Dave McDonald and Timothy Casey.

Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to accept Timothy Casey and Dave McDonald as probationary members of the Marine Fire & Rescue. Motion approved unanimously.

Anderson noted that they have some new members but have had retirements so there's an active need for new members. Anderson would like to schedule a council workshop about public safety for late March or early April. He's continuing to work on public safety policy around events, and will keep the council updated.

Street Dance: Malmgren reported that the Street Dance would be held the third week in June. Pat McCarthy is now organizing the event and will be the point of contact.

Roads – Engineer Ryan Goodman noted an online workshop about sustainable lawns and gardens that may be of interest to Marine residents. He's waiting for more information about the

floodplain risk assessment. Nyenhuis asked whether any of the floodplain information should be added to the city's list of goals. Goodman said Marine's geography keeps it at low risk. If development starts to encroach on wetlands and areas where stormwater is channeled, it might become necessary. But for now they're just looking at areas of isolated, known flooding.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – Nyenhuis noted that ash trees have been identified for treatment at the Mill Site.

Cemetery – Nyenhuis is putting together statistics on cemetery use, and questioned whether the city should be in the business of running a cemetery. Burial practices are changing. It's not addressed in the comprehensive plan. He'll bring this topic up at the upcoming workshop about goals. Citizens are welcome to share comments with council members.

Water Systems – Pardun reported that he, Ward, and public works staff met with residents from Jackson Meadow to discuss the JM water system and budget. They laid out costs and had an informative conversation. The JM residents are going to crunch numbers and everyone will meet again. Public works guys are tracking really closely what their time goes to. The goal is to come up with a budget before the council's budget meeting in August.

City Properties – School Water Purification System – Pardun shared prices for the UV treatment equipment and installation for the well at the school. Now \$101,677. The money is budgeted if they use federal funds of roughly \$76,000 plus about \$34,000 that was moved into a maintenance fund for the school (originally from fiscal disparity money). The cost is larger than they'd planned for, but Pardun doesn't believe they can have students in the building without the treatment system. Maintenance costs: three UV lamps will need replacing every 12,000 hours (4-6 years) at \$400 each. Cleaning supplies are \$50.

Nyenhuis noted that this would allow the city to fulfill its goal of getting a tenant in the school. Anderson asked if it would affect the rest of the budget. Pardun said they'd be getting close, but no. They were always planning on spending \$40,000 on the project.

The council discussed whether the test result could have reflected human error or a problem with the well equipment, not the water in the well. Pardun was certain it accurately reflected an infiltration of the aquifer. The state had tried to find out where the infiltration happened but couldn't. Some form of treatment or a new well is the only way the department of health would sign off on opening the school, according to conversations they had in 2019.

Resident Liz Kelly asked if the council was talking about sewage from runoff, and what the implications were for others in the city with wells. Pardun replied that everyone should be testing their wells. Anderson noted that, if it was fecal matter, the test didn't specify that was human. Anderson would like a public facing document created to prevent rumors that there is sewage in the water.

Nyenhuis suggested using the newsletter to remind residents to test their water, especially in spring. Resident Kristina Smitten asked if there could be a smaller volume system installed for drinking? Pardun answered that water from the tap would need to be used for hand washing and cooking.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the purchase of equipment to treat the water for 85 gal/minute pump capacity of a Trojan UV Swift SCVO3 Reactor from Great Northern Environmental for \$74,390. Installation by Eagan Companies for \$27,287. Total cost \$101,677. Approved unanimously.

Events – Feb 18-21 is the Ice Sculpture Exploration. Anderson expressed interest in being on the Events committee again. Roden accepted.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities – Ward reported that Marine’s Dark Sky preservation and policy was highlighted in the League of Minnesota Cities magazine, Minnesota Cities.

Communication Infrastructure – After a second meeting with Vinco, the team is still considering sites and narrowing the decision. The current plan is for Vinco to apply at the March Planning Commission meeting.

Trails, Open Space, Natural Resources

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant – Residents Kristina Smitten and Harold Teasdale were in attendance to ask if the city wanted to collaborate on a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. The funds are available through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, and managed by DNR. The area of focus would be the Marine Hollow, a publicly owned 53-acre parcel under conservation easement. The grant request would be for \$177,000 and would require a \$20K match from city. Funds would be dispersed over three years. They are proposing that the city budget \$3,000 per year beginning in 2023 for a total of \$9,000. \$1,000 would come from Jackson Meadow residents and \$10,000 in kind for equipment use. Technically the city is the applicant. Administratively, Smitten would be project manager and Clerk Peterson would be fiscal contact for the city. They will hear back by May 9. If approved, work could begin this fall. Council discussion reflected support.

Ward moved and Anderson seconded to authorize pursuit of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for restoration of Marine Hollow. Approved unanimously.

Additionally, Ward is applying for two grants, a \$1,000 Tropical Wings Migratory Bird Grant and a new \$2,000 “North Woods Watershed” grant.

Urban Forest – Ward reported this is the fourth year Marine has been recognized as a Tree City USA, a reflection of the forest committee’s great work.

Consent Calendar

Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 1/13/22, Treasurer’s Report of 1/22, List of Bills for 2/10/22, Zoning Administrators Report, Public

Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.

Roden noted a typo that said the Ice Sculpture would be in Burris Park rather than Gazebo Park.
All in favor as amended.

Long/Short Term Goals

Reminder of March 1 workshop to discuss goals.

Mayor Notes

Mayor Nyenhuis invited anyone watching via Zoom to come down to the hall for cake in celebration of Councilman Anderson's return from active duty.

Adjourn

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to adjourn at 8:52 pm. All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk.