

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, March 10, 2022

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

Citizens Present: Scott Spisak, Mary Skamser, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Doug Latuseck, Glen Mills, Win Miller, Jeff Comins, Nancy Cosgriff, Peter Foster, Valorie Dowell, Judy McDevit, Dorothy Deetz, Anne Reich, Jerod, Jim Maher, Leslie McKenzie, Mary Burke, Todd Mestad, Evan Johnson, Fitzie Heimdahl, Dana Vannenn Anderson, Ryan Goodman, Tommy Boesel, Liz Kelly, Ginny Averill, Curt Moe, Bill Miller, Larry Martin, Kevin Hein.

Approval of the Agenda - *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda as drafted. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations - Councilmember Anderson announced he will be seeking the endorsement for House Representative for District 33B.

Planning Commission - Scott Spisak reported on the February meeting. The Commission has drafted a letter to the DNR addressing the zoning code comments. Once the amendments are complete, there will be a public hearing held prior to adoption.

There has not been a pre-application for the cell tower however they expect this to happen at the March meeting.

Public Safety - Acting Chief Mills reported there are a few new members in Firefighter 1 & 2 class. Councilmember Anderson met with Sheriff Starry and we are now receiving monthly newsletters from their department. The appreciation dinner will be held on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at Dunrovin.

Roads - Ryan Goodman reported the watershed is still waiting on the floodplain risk assessment grant. The watershed has hired a second person to help Mike Isensee. There is a bill proposed for additional small cities funding that would help with roads funding.

Ward questioned if Bolton Menk is able to look for significant funding for the paved bike trail along highway 95. Goodman noted there are grants available through the DNR and other agencies but typically come with additional requirements that the City would want to weigh prior to applying.

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec - Anderson noted that deer feeding is illegal and it is an issue in Marine. Feeding promotes chronic wasting disease along with other diseases.

Cemetery-No Report.

City Properties -Pardun received a notice from the Watershed that a grant received for Buckthorn removal in Burris Park along the Millpond. There will be a fiscal responsibility from the City for \$1633.50, which will be covered from Stormwater funds. The funds given to the City from the Millstream could be used to dredge the pond.

*Pardun moved and Ward seconded to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Carnelian Marine Watershed District for construction cost of buckthorn removal in Burris Park. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

Charter School Lease - The attorneys are still working through and Pardun believes it should be ready for approval in April. Anderson will be working with fire chief on safety concerns as the school opening gets closer.

Water Systems- No Report.

EDA-No report.

Holidays/Events - Anderson reported that the Marine ice sculpture site was the top on social media. Memorial Day service planning is in the works. Fireworks for this year will not happen due to staffing and supply issues. Anderson and Roden are looking into other options for a celebration.

Citizen Committee Reports-

Urban Forest- The group is working on the EAB grant requirements.

Green Step Cities - Ward presented a proposal for a license agreement with Carbon Solutions Group to install and maintain EV chargers in the City. CSG will provide, install and maintain the chargers at no cost to the City, along with the signage. The Green Step committee is proposing to create 3 parking spaces along Judd Street, just to the south of the gas station. The parking pad would be 20'x27'. The City would be responsible for installing the gravel parking pad, along with snow removal in the winter. Leslie McKenzie presented a power point presentation depicting the details of the proposal. The contract would be for a 10 year time period. There is also the potential for the City to receive bonus revenue depending on the amount of usage. The timeline for installation depends on supply chain demands with Xcel.

Anderson questioned the need for cellular connectivity. Leslie noted that the chargers will require full cell coverage in order to work and that was a concern as there is no specific timeline for a cell tower at this point. Anderson questioned if any studies have been done for Marine's utilization will be. The belief is the first year usage will be approximately 1% but is expected to rise as electric vehicles sales increase. Anderson is concerned that electric vehicles are so expensive that the sales may be increase as much as they projecting. He is also sensitive that the proposed location is park space and would like to see some beautification suggestions for that area, and would like the Anderson family contacted to get their feelings on this proposal as well. Pardun is concerned with the lease term as 10 years is a long time and there are a lot of changes

that can happen in that amount of time. CSG will not go any less than ten years given the initial investment they are putting in to the chargers. There is also a clause in the agreement that allows the company to upgrade the equipment. Pardun also questioned if the expansion would happen at the same location. CSG noted there is room for negotiation on future parking space locations, however that may not be as economical. Leslie suggested a future location could be the school.

Mayor Nyenhuis is concerned about the timeline for approval and believes there should be a beautification plan as well. The reason for the quick timeline is because there is a possibility that the funds for this pilot program will be gone if the City does not respond now. Pardun questioned if there is a clause that allows for the removal of these charging stations if the company goes out of business or the company is sold. There is a clause in the contract that allows for the company to cap and remove the chargers if the City does not want to renew the contract. If CSG goes out of business, then a credit company would come to the City and ask if they would like to purchase the chargers at a reduced price. Mayor Nyenhuis thanked the committee for coming forth with this proposal and doing the legwork.

Scott Spisak noted the Planning Commission has not seen this proposal prior to tonight. There are a few concerns he has, such as having a commercial operation in a residential area and public park, potential issues with the location on the street, the potential impact of the proposed area being located in the river district and historic district and potential issue with the business to the north. Spisak also believes this would rarely be used in the winter months and mostly on weekends during the rest of the year which means the utilization rate could be very low. There is also a question of the remaining infrastructure if the chargers themselves were removed and what does the City do with that. Ryan Goodman believes Mr. Spisak brought up many good points.

Goodman also questioned the insurance piece of if these would fall under the City's insurance or if any potential damage would be covered by CSG. Anderson believes the questions raised are very good questions and does not believe this proposal should be rushed. Ward questioned the timeline for CSG. Mr. McDevitt noted that the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is soft, however the longer the City takes the more possibility the money could be gone. Pardun believes the Green Step committee did a great job pulling this proposal together, but does believe this deserves more time to answer the questions raised. The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the proposal but not to take action at this time.

Communication Infrastructure - Anderson reported that the committee has continued to meet and do due diligence to analyze 13 different sites for the cell tower location. The compost site remains the most viable site at this time. There will be an open house at the Village Hall on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to go through the process as of today and answer any questions the public may have. Vinco will be attending the March Planning Commission meeting for a pre-application meeting. The staff will work closely with the Commission and City Attorney to review the application once received.

Trails, Open Space and Natural Resources - The committee is working towards a song bird grant for the O'Brien property located on St. Croix Trail.

Consent Calendar - *Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/10/21, 3/1/22 with the change that Ward would like to amend the Millstream Land Acquisition to say a quorum of the Council was not in favor of adding to the list.*

*Treasurer's Report of 11/21, List of Bills for 12/9/21, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Polling Place Designation Resolution and Planning Commission Minutes.*

Old/New Business - The Friends of Scandia are requesting a current letter of support for the Gateway Trail. This letter was sent by Council in 2020. Anderson would like to see the Senate file number included in the letter.

*Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to send a letter in support of the Gateway Trail as requested by the Friends of Scandia. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.*

Utility Box Funding Request - Fizzie Heimdahl was in attendance at the February meeting to request funding to complete the project and is asking for \$500 for 2023 and \$500 for 2024. Fizzie would also like to see the utility box on Broadway done at the time that is replaced. The Council will address at the August budget meeting.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report - Ward would like to begin to represent the City at the Lower St. Croix Patnership Plan meetings. Jack Wanen and Robin Brooksbank have done it in the past. The Council consensus was for Councilmember Ward to move forward.

Adjournment -

*Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 8:31pm. All in favor, motion passes.*  
Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk