

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022

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

Citizens Present: Scott Spisak, Larry Roden, Peter Foster, Kitzie Vadheim, Leslie MacKenzie, Suzanne Dammann, John Goodfellow.

Approval of the Agenda – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda with two items removed, the first being Fitzie Heimdahl and the second being the EV Chargers. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations – None

Planning Commission - Scott Spisak presented an amendment to the 4G cell tower ordinance, adding the permitted zoning districts.

Chairman Mroska will be stepping down as Chairman and the Commission is recommending Scott Spisak to take over as Chairman. Mroska will remain as a member of the Commission.

There will be a public hearing for Dawn Pennie in May. A draft of the 5G requirements will be ready by June from the consultant.

The cell tower public hearing will be May 23rd at 7:00pm.

Continue to work through the DNR comments with the Zoning code amendments. The Commission may be requesting a workshop with the Commission and City Attorney to review those issues.

Spisak is working with the City Engineer on the Historic District map.

The Commission discussed their role with the various citizen committees, and they are in agreement that Commission members should not be a member of those committees, however the committees should bring any land use issues forward to the Commission for review.

The Commission is working on drafting an RFP for a consultant to be used for future work.

Nyenhuis questioned the requirement for a power backup on a cell tower, and would like to see that issue brought up to Vinco. Spisak believes there is an FCC requirement for a power back up. Anderson also believes that to be true, however he will follow up on that. Pardun noted there is battery backup, however there can be a request for a generator in addition.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution 0512222-01, Ordinance No. 160 amending Section 408 of the Zoning Code to include permitted districts for telecommunication towers and antennas. All in favor, motion passed.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to accept the resignation of Gerry Mroska as chairman and to appoint Scott Spisak to take over the position. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Anderson wanted to remind residents that the tornado siren is a consistent tone and that once the siren stops, it does not mean it is safe to go outside

There was a brush pile burn that got out of control earlier this week. There was no significant damage, but Anderson reminded residents to make sure to get any required permits from the City office.

There are new member roles within the Department, Brian Wicklund is now EMS Lieutenant, Gayle Knutson is EMS Captain and Jami Philip is now Fire Lieutenant.

Special Event Ordinance – Anderson noted there were a few changes since the last draft. “public safety department” was changed to “public safety committee”. Nyenhuis questioned who the committee consists of. Anderson stated himself and the fire chief.

Anderson would like to make one additional amendment to the time requirement for a block party. This amendment would allow a permit to be issued by the Mayor after approval by the public safety committee rather than reviewal by the entire Council.

An hour was subtracted from the permit start time. There was also a change in the noise requirement. The current ordinance lists a decibel level. The City Attorney suggested changing that to the requirement for noise to not disrupt the neighborhood. This can be difficult to enforce, however Anderson noted that the Council can take any issues into consideration the next time that applicant applies for another permit. Pardun stated the City still has a noise ordinance in addition and can contact Washington County for enforcement.

Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution No. 051222-02, Ordinance 161 amending Chapter 26 of the City Code with the amendments listed. All in favor, motion passed.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution No. 051222-03, Ordinance 162. All in favor, motion passed.

One Day Liquor License

Anderson moved and Ward seconded to approve a one day liquor license for the street dance. All in favor motion passed.

Roads – Pardun reviewed the Engineering Report. The small cities assistance bill passed and the City should be receiving some funding in 2023.

Pardun met with public works to go over the patching for the upcoming year. Public works will be attempting several large patches as a trial. These areas will be on Pine Street, Elm Street, Broadway and the 5th Street alley. The total cost of this project will be approximately \$30,000. This is above and beyond the regular patching done every year.

Ward questioned how the contractor was selected. Pardun stated several were contacted, however the one selected was recommended by the Engineer and has been used by the City in the past.

Ward also questioned why the City is unsure the large patching will work. Pardun clarified that the patching will work, however the unknown is the life span of the patch. Pardun explained there are so many variables with patching that there is no way to guarantee a life expectancy. Nyenhuis would like to have a roads workshop prior to the August budget meeting. The Council agreed.

Personnel - No report .

Parks & Rec – Nyenhuis noted the pick ball supplies have arrived and are in place. There will be an opportunity for residents to leave a note that they were there in order to try and get an idea of usage.

Cemetery – Workshop on Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm.

City Properties – Public works toured the City buildings with a contractor to document the necessary repairs. There is some roof damage on the museum and the log cabin. The City is waiting for those bids to come back.

Nyenhuis questioned the gate at the Public Works building and would like to see a plan for the keeping the gate from freezing in the winter. Pardun will make sure that plan is received when the new electronic gate is installed.

Water Systems – A letter was mailed to residents who are eligible to connect to City sewer informing them of the opportunity. There is an upcoming meeting with Jackson Meadow to discuss the reserve funds. Water testing around the drain field will happen in June.

EDA – *Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the Minutes as drafted. All in favor, motion passed.*

Holidays/Events – Roden reported the July 4th parade will commence at noon at Berkey as it has in the past. Anderson will be the point person. The hope is to have an egg toss and watermelon feed in Burris Park and the City will fund those supplies. Anderson would like to have live music as well, and will work with the Fire Chief on a traffic mitigation plan. Ward questioned if there will be a public discussion of fireworks moving forward. Anderson believes there will be two evenly split sides on that issue. Roden believes the cost is a huge factor in that discussion as well.

The Soiree has been renamed as the Marine Mills community picnic and will go away from having it a formal dinner. Anderson is looking into including a blood drive and live music.

Memorial Day will be held at the cemetery as it has in the past.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Forest Committee – Peter Foster reported the City has purchased 150 white pine seedlings to give away to Marine residents. The giveaway will be May 21st, and the group will also be giving away planting instructions and asking for addresses to get an idea of where they will be planted.

Ward reported the Forest committee will be marking the 11 trees that will be removed as part of the Emerald Ash Borer project. This removal is being funded by an \$8,900 DNR grant. Ward is questioning if the Council would like to reconsider the inoculation of these trees, or continue with the cutting. In 2017, John Goodfellow first brought the Emerald Ash Borer infection concern to the Council and presented an inoculation plan to the Council, at which time no action was taken with the exception of the Monfort Dunn Ash tree. Ward believes the removal of these 11 trees, 8 of which are within the downtown area will have a huge impact. She presented three options for the Council to consider. These options are to pause and assess the condition of these trees to determine if the Council wishes to proceed with the grant, or create a phased inoculation replacement plan. If all 11 trees are treated, the inoculation total cost would be \$1475 bi-annually. The second option involves inoculating public and private trees at 50% of the normal cost.

Pardun questioned if the EAB will a permanent commitment or if the bug will go through its own life cycle. John Goodfellow noted normally there is a life cycle, however they are not seeing this as much with the EAB. He stated the trees will be lost, however the question is how to manage that loss. Pardun would like to see those trees marked so the Council and the public can see the trees that would be lost. Pardun is concerned that residents would start this process with the City, but then down the road stop treating and then are back to square one. Pardun also noted that the Council previously took no action on the inoculation option because of the much higher cost than what was stated today. Mr. Goodfellow believes this should be a management plan until the replacement can begin to happen and should not be considered a perpetual plan. Anderson thanked Ward for bringing forth this information. Nyenhuis would like to see the May 21st event as an opportunity to education the residents about this issue as well.

Green Step Cities – No report.

Communication Infrastructure – Any future updates will happen under city properties.

Trails, Open Space and Natural Resources – No report.

Consent Calendar – Anderson *moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 4/14/22, Treasurer's Report of 4/22, List of Bills for 5/12/22, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, and Planning Commission Minutes.*

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business – Pardun noted that one of the City mowers is due for replacement. A bid was received from Olson Power with a total cost being \$11,500. This is cost will be covered by the dedicated equipment fund.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Nyenhuis received a notice regarding the requirements for flying the flag at half staff. Due to Covid losses, flags should be flying at half staff on May 16th. Nyenhuis will work with Public works to make sure that happens.

Nyenhuis also noted he will not be in attendance for the July meeting. Acting Mayor Pardun will

run that meeting.

Adjournment -

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:28pm.

All in favor, motion passes.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk