

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2022

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

Citizens Present: Larry Roden, Scott Spisak, Dorothy Deetz , Jody Nyenhuis, Ryan Goodman, Bill Miller, Glen Mills, Jason Hartman, Ross Higgins, Rosie Peters, Roger Lyle, Tod Mestad, Karen Kramer, Julie Warren, Curt Moe, Kathy Harker, Jeff and Carissa Roach, Charlie and Shelly Borden, Mike Isensee, Anne Reich, Win Miller, Kimberly Kokx, John Schenk, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Julie Ferber, Scott Spisak, Molly Roden, Mike Isensee, Kim Kokx, Cecily Harris, Dan Willenbring, Robin Brooksbank, Pete Huberty, Fred Remund, Win Miller, Tara Kelly, Anna Hagstrom, Fitzie Heimdahl, Ginny Averill, Doris Staub, Jeremy Chacich, Eric and Chrissi Larsen, Jane Kennedy, Kien Nguyen, Jon Fogelberg, Joan Fogelberg, Jim Maher, Gayle Knutson.

Mayor Nyenhuis read a statement from Council member Anderson stating that he was unable to attend the meeting as he will be attending Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation.

Approval of the Agenda –

*Roden moved and Ward seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.
All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations –

Buckthorn Buster Awards – Ward reported there are 18 local citizens, many who have received a grant through the Watershed District, who have done an enormous amount of work to remove buckthorn from their property. Councilmember Ward, along with Mike Isensee, recognized each of them by presenting an award for their efforts. The recipients were the Pine Cone Trail Association, Heidi and Dominic Hanzley, Shelly and Charlie Borden, Jeff Peterson, Jeff and Carissa Roach, Mill Site committee, Forest Advisory committee, Jane Kennedy, Jean Kingston, Cecily Harris, Erik Larsen, Anna Hagstrom, Fitzie Heimdahl, Julie Warren, Stuart Nielsen and Curt Moe and Kathy Harker.

Marine Village School – Dr. Kokx was in attendance to give an update on the school. The enrollment remains the same, however there are a few new families that will be joining. Dr. Kokx reported on the many activities of the students. The students will be putting on a production of Annie at the Village Hall, and have taken multiple field trips. The school will be undertaking fundraising efforts and will be looking for volunteers to assist.

Brookside Bar and Grill Liquor License – There will be new owners of the Brookside Bar and Grill as of December 19th. The owners are Ross Higgins, Rosie Peters, Grayson Taylor and Jeremy Chacich. Washington County has conducted the background check and the Clerk will be forwarding the application to the State.

Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the on sale/off sale liquor license for the Brookside contingent upon final approval by the State of MN. All in favor, motion passed.

Waste Management Garbage Discussion – Ward reported that there have been many residents in town who have been impacted by Waste Management not picking up garbage and recycling on the Tuesday collection day.

Julie Ferber, resident of Butternut Falls, stated 7 of the last 9 weeks there have either been delays in collection or no collection at all. She stated that the residents have to pay regardless of whether their garbage is collection and Waste Management seems to have no penalty or consequence for not collecting.

Mayor Nyenhuis noted that the City does have a contract with the hauler, which overall is a benefit for the residents and the City.

Dan Willenbring, Tanglewood Lane resident, states they have lost track as to how many times the garbage was not collected. They have issues with animals getting into the containers as they sit for days. He would like to see some sort of compensation for the missed weeks.

Peter Huberty, Tanglewood resident, is very frustrated with the consistently missed pickups

John Goodfellow, Pine Cone Trail, believes the level of service has fallen dramatically since Waste Management has taken over. He is also frustrated that there is no communication from the hauler when the trash will not be picked up.

Karen Kramer, 621 Walnut, is frustrated that their residence is continually forgotten and has been told they are not even listed on the pick-up list.

Ward stated the private roads are serviced by a different truck than the rest of the town because of the need for a smaller truck. There have been issues with driver shortages and mechanical issues with the vehicle. The City will consider some sort of credit for the residents, however the details will not take place at this meeting.

Jason Hartman, Waste Management Route Manager, was in attendance to address this issue. He stated since Covid happened, there have been many issues with driver shortages and vehicle issues. He stated there is no excuse for these issues and he agrees that these issues need to be addressed and fixed. There are 14 newly trained drivers, which will help tremendously. The second small truck will also be in service which will help in the event the first truck breaks down. The City now contacts Mr. Hartman directly when there are issues so they can get addressed.

Mayor Nyenhuis questioned the transfer of knowledge when it comes to the route in order to avoid residents getting missed. Mr. Hartman noted each driver has a tablet with notes for each household which is supposed to help avoid these issues. There are instances however, when things get overlooked. Waste Management also will send out phone or text messages if they access to that information for each resident. This will be an automated message to anyone on that call list.

Mayor Nyenhuis believes the association representatives should be engaged with Waste Management in order to communicate a solution directly.

Mr. Hartman will send the entire route list to the City office to review and make changes.

Planning Commission - Chairman Spisak reported on the November meeting and thanked Council for approving the Planning Consultant budget item for 2023. A meeting was held with the DNR to discuss the Zoning amendments. Many items were agreed upon and there are still some that need some work. 5g wireless guidelines were received yesterday so the Commission will begin to review those. Maggie Raedeke has met with Ed Sanderson and Tim Casey in November there will

be an upcoming workshop to share her updates. Commissioners Hagstrom and Henry would like to continue on the Commission for an additional three-year term.

Roden moved and Ward seconded to re-appoint Jennifer Henry and Anna Hagstrom to the Planning Commission for an additional three-year term. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Council member Anderson has nominated Glen Mills for the fire chief position beginning January 1, 2023. Mr. Mills was in attendance to answer any questions. Mayor Nyenhuis questioned the leadership style of Mr. Mills in terms of transition from Chief Malmgren’s style. Mills stated he would like to include everyone in the transition and believes there are many very qualified people currently on the squad. Ward questioned the shift of responsibilities on the squad. Gayle Knutson will continue to handle the first responders and the remaining members will continue to be very involved. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see Mr. Mills help to develop new leadership for when the next transition takes place. Mills stated that is difficult at the moment due to the number of new members on the squad, however he working to keep those new members very involved and trained in as many areas as possible.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to appoint Glen Mills as fire chief for a two-year term.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed his engineering report. There was an inspection done of the Red Bridge and items noted for work that should be done. He would like to have a future meeting as to the amount of detail the Council would like to see in future reports in terms of how much detail the Council may want on structural details and also discussion for budget numbers to address those issues stated.

Ward stated she was the person requesting more details and further discussion. Goodman suggested having some type of working document for routine maintenance for the future as well. The oversight of the bridge would move to the parks and rec committee for recommendations and for now this item will be tabled until the January workshop.

Goodman also thanked Council member Roden for her service on the Council.

Pardun presented an amendment to the winter parking ordinance prohibiting parking on City streets while plowing is occurring or until plowing has ceased.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution 12822-01, ordinance No. 168 amending Chapter 24 of the City Code, Winter on Street Parking. All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel - No report.

Parks & Rec – No report.

Cemetery – Ward discussed a grant opportunity at the November meeting. After further discussion with the MN Historical Society, no Legacy grant will be required. The Historical Society would like to do ground probing and mapping on their own instead, and would hope to finish by the end of summer 2023.

Water Systems – No report.

City Properties – Roden has been in discussion with Marla on the Memorandum of Understanding and she would like to extend the deadline until April. Ward questioned why an April timeline. Roden stated this would give the board time to discuss and then bring any feedback to the City.

Roden moved and Pardun seconded to extend the Memorandum of Understanding with the Marine Library Association until April. All in favor, motion passed.

Pardun reported there have been issues with heating the music room at the school. A bid was received to replace a controller on the rooftop HVAC system for just over \$10,000. Pardun approval from Council to move forward with this repair. The only 4 of the current controllers had been replaced with CARES funding and the Council consensus was to replace the remaining as they fail.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to approve the repair of the HVAC controller number 4 by NAC for the elementary school not to exceed \$12,000. All in favor, motion passed.

Holidays/Events – At the November meeting, Roden suggested the City take over the Enchanted Forest event and is now asking the Council to consider this request. Pardun believes it sounds like the liability insurance requirement from the new outdoor event ordinance is now the biggest issue for wanting the City to assume responsibility. He would like to consider the City waive the requirement for insurance for this event as it feels like an over reach for this particular event, especially since the forest is already up and no insurance was obtained. Nyenhuis would like the City Attorney to weigh in and then it can be discussed further at a Council workshop. Roden noted that there is one particular day designated for decorating with food vendors, but then the trees are there for an extended period of time. She is confused as to whether a permit would be required and for how long, etc. Assistant Clerk Dammann advised typically a rental permit is for when you are restricting any additional use of the park, which this event would not.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Green Step Cities – No report.

Trails, Open Space – No report.

Forest Advisory –

Consent Calendar – *Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/9/22, 12/1/22, Treasurer's Report of 11/22, List of Bills for 12/8/22, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Tobacco license for Marine General Store and STR license renewals for Christine Maefsky and David Heieren.*

Old/New Business –

Approval of 2023 Levy – Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to adopt the 2023 levy at \$976,890.98 which represents a 3.98% increase over 2022. All in favor, motion passed.

2022 Reserve Funds – Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to approve the 2022 Proposed Reserve funds as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Citizen of the Year - Nyenhuis moved and Roden seconded to honor Gayle Knutson and Jim Maher as the 2022 Citizens of the Year. All in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Planning Commission Chair Spisak suggested a holiday gathering on December 20th for City members and citizen committee members. Nyenhuis will coordinate with the Clerk's office on the details.

Mayor Nyenhuis recognized Council member Roden for her long-standing volunteerism and service to the City.

Adjournment - Roden moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:41pm. All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk