

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 2023

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

Citizens : Larry/Gwen Roden, Scott Spisak, Glen Mills, Paul Paladie, Tom Warth, John Goodfellow, Nealy Cochran, Evan Johnson, Dana Vannen, Kristina Smitten, Julie Ferber, Curt Moe, Mike Tibbetts, Anna Hagstrom, Jim Maher, Anne Reich .

Oath of Office – Clerk Peterson administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council members Charlie Anderson, Bill Miller and Kevin Nyenhuis.

Approval of the Agenda –

Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.

Anderson yes

Ward yes

Pardun yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Citizens Considerations –

Scott Spisak – Mr. Spisak reported that on December 15th, there was a power outage on Old Guslander that affected Jackson Meadow. The outage caused extremely high water pressure in many of the homes due to the well #2 not shutting off. Public Works was called very early that morning and was able to lower the pressure and get the situation under control. There was damage sustained by several homes in Jackson Meadow but could have been much worse had the situation not been handled early on.

Anna Hagstrom - Ms. Hagstrom owns Anna's Bistro, which opened last year. She has the combination on sale/off sale license and is frustrated that the fee has increased from \$1400 to \$2000. She did not receive any notice and believes that an increase that large is a very large burden on a small business. Anderson believes that \$2000 is still a good deal for a liquor license and also noted that the last increase for liquor licenses was 2005. The Council chose to adjust all fees and it was discussed at two meetings, put in the newsletter and the website as well. Nyenhuis believes the business of the Council was done correctly but the courtesy of extending that notice to the businesses could have been done differently. Research can be done to see if other cities have a tiered system based upon size. Paul Paladie, resident, believes the residents of Marine have seen a very large tax increase and that may affect how residents spend their money, which could then affect local business. Dana Vannen questioned if the League of MN Cities was consulted on the fee increases. The Council does not need to consult with the League for local fees.

Planning Commission - Chairman Spisak reported there was no December meeting. He would

like to schedule a workshop with Commission and Council mid February. The Clerk's office will send a meeting request for those dates.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported the 2022 annual report is in the works. The new officers have been appointed. The department is also looking at which equipment will need to be upgraded. Anderson would like to see contract negotiations with May Township reflect the increase in calls and hourly pay for the members.

Anderson and Ward are working with the County and MnDOT on potential speed reduction. Anderson also reminded residents of the speed limit for snowmobiles. Two months ago there was a serial burglar arrested. This person was found to have items from local businesses and City property.

Mike Tibbetts, resident, would like to see an open meeting with the County and MnDOT on the speed issue to allow residents a voice.

Roads – No Report.

Personnel - Public works has completed their hours study.

Parks & Rec – Mitch Hanson and Councilmember Anderson have worked hard to get the rink ready. The boards are in need of replacement. Dana Vannen questioned if there is a plan for the lighting. The lights are on a 60 minute timer.

Cemetery – No report.

Water Systems – No report.

City Properties – No report.

Holidays/Events – No report.

EDA – Clerk Peterson administered the Oath of Office to Bill Miller as a new member of the EDA.

Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to adopt the EDA officers as presented with Bill Miller taking the place of Gwen Roden as Secretary.

Anderson yes

Ward yes

Pardun yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Green Step Cities – Ward submitted report from the committee and at this time, the committee is recommending not pursuing EV charging stations and to wait for changing technology and funding to evolve.

Trails, Open Space – No report.

Forest Advisory – Ward submitted a 2023 draft work plan including the gravel bed, EAB ROW work, updating the management plan, Arbor Day, Buckthorn Buster awards and MNDOT landscape partnership grant.

The EAB insect has been confirmed in the local area.

Consent Calendar – *Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/8/22, Treasurer's Report of 12/22, List of Bills for 1/12/23, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.*

Anderson yes

Ward yes

Pardun yes

Nyenhuis yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Ward thanked public works for the work done during the many snow events and for plowing the William O'Brien entrance off of Broadway.

Old/New Business –

Clerk Peterson advised Waste Management has agreed to a four week credit to the residents on the Tuesday route for missed pickups. Still waiting to receive feedback on the contract.

There is a committee workshop scheduled on January 18th to review the committee workshops. Currently it is scheduled for 6:00pm however Mayor Nyenhuis would like to move the workshop to 7:15pm.

Anderson reported the survey is complete for the easements leading up to the cell tower site and the Attorney has submitted a revised lease which has been sent to Vinco for review.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment - *Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 7:53pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk