

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2023

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

Citizens : Larry/Gwen Roden, Scott Spisak, Glen Mills, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadnheim, Mark Kraske, Emily Blake, Anne Reich, Jim Maher, Dana Vannen, Mike Tibbetts, Ryan Goodman, Mary Burke, Paul Paladie.

Approval of the Agenda – Ward requested to remove the EAB power point presentation and Nyenhuis removed the liquor license discussion as Council member Anderson is not in attendance.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passed.

Citizens Considerations –

Mary Ellen Thompson – Mrs. Thompson would like to host a memorial event for her late husband Butch Thompson. Butch was a former Marine resident who performed countless concerts over the years at the Village Hall as a fundraiser for the Marine Restoration Society.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded approval of Mary Ellen Thompson request to pay the resident rate for the Butch Thompson memorial. All in favor, motion passed.

Planning Commission - Chairman Spisak reported significant progress was made on the DNR zoning changes. There are still a number of issues left to work out, including substandard structures, minimum lot size and vegetative cutting. A letter will be sent to the DNR with the new changes for comment.

Wireless infrastructure design guidelines is on-going. Maggie Raedeke gave her presentation prior to the January meeting. There will be a workshop with the Council on February 21st.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there were six runs last month. The City of Stillwater has declared one of their fire trucks as surplus so Chief Mills will be looking at it to see if Marine has interest.

Roads – Ryan Goodman requested approval to obtain quotes on crack fill and seal coating for Oak Knoll Drive, Judd Street and a short section of Oak Street, and also quotes on the micro surfacing for Broadway. The previous micro surfacing quote was at the end of last season and came in very high as the contractor did not have any additional projects in the area. The hope is to get quotes early enough to see the cost comes in lower, however due to inflation many of the quotes are coming in higher than anticipated. All bids received will be presented at the April meeting.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to authorize Bolton Menk to obtain quotes for the 2023 crack fill and seal coat project. All in favor, motion passed.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to authorize Bolton Menk to obtain quotes for the 2023 micro surfacing project for Broadway Street. All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel – The City received a non-compliance report back from the State of MN stating that the City Clerk salary not equitable to the Lead Public Works salary. The increase to her salary needs to be \$12.80 more per month.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to increase the salary of the City Clerk by \$12.80 per month to bring the City into compliance. All in favor, motion passed.

Parks & Rec – Ward reported that there is a partnership opportunity for local governments to meet and discuss DNR and river issues on a monthly basis. Miller will be included in these meetings as well as he has knowledge on bow fishing and mud and air boat issue. Ward also reported that there is now a resource from the League of MN Cities for cities under 4,000 in population that assists with financial assistance and resources for pursuing grant opportunities. Ward would like to look into something for public restrooms. Nyenhuis questioned if Ward foresees the need for a budget item for grant writing assistance. She believes there is not a need for smaller grants, however for large grant opportunities then there would be a need.

Cemetery – There has been some significant tree damage that will need to be addressed this spring.

Water Systems – No report.

City Properties – Ward will begin the process to obtain a Legacy grant for the Village Hall and Museum.

Miller and Pardun met with MarLa on the MOU update and hopes to have a draft to Council soon. The Restoration Society has contracted for painting of the inside of the Village Hall. Pardun reported that the lease negotiations for the cell tower are in process, and the utility easements are in the works as well.

Holidays/Events – No report.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Green Step Cities – Ward reported that discussion was held during the Council committee workshop as to whether this committee should be resolved. Ward reviewed how the committee was formed and their accomplishments over the past nine years. Ward does not support the dissolution of this committee and would like to see it continue. Pardun stated he was on Council when Green Steps was formed and believes it was a well thought out program and noted that it has achieved the first three steps in the program. The Council then had a discussion with the committee as to whether the City could realistically accomplish step 4 and it was agreed that the

City did not have the resources to achieve that next step. He also believes that just because the committee is dissolved, does not mean that it could not come back in the future or that the City would stop making decisions based on the Green Step philosophy.

Miller noted that a meeting was held with the committee a few years back in which 47 initiatives were identified and of those 47, 5 were selected as priorities. Since then, there has been a decline in the volunteerism of the group and the sustainability seems to be declining. It was suggested at the workshop that one or two Council members be the contact for any ideas that come forward in the future that the Council could consider.

Nyenhuis loves the work the committee has done, however noted that there have not been any reports from the committee in quite a while and believes this is a sustainability issue. This does not mean that the importance of the issue goes away, however if there are ideas or concerns from citizens then those should be brought to the Council for consideration. He also agreed with Pardun that if in the future there is a renewed interest, then the Council could consider reforming the committee.

Kitzie Vadheim, resident, questioned Miller's comment of having this a part of a council committee. Miller stated there are items that were looked into by the committee like EV chargers that the Council can continue to pursue. Ms. Vadheim believes the issue of resiliency pertains to not only government buildings, but to private residents as well. Miller noted that the City works closely with Washington County with their hazardous mitigation plan which is a great resource for all residents.

Gwen Roden, resident, was involved with Green Steps for a long time and believes that Green Step was there to assist the Council with various items and questioned if the committee dissolves, can the Council ask for assistance from those members if needed in the future. The Council has many resources for those kinds of issues and will continue to utilize those resources as needed.

Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to dissolve the Green Step committee. Pardun, Nyenhuis and Miller in favor, Ward opposed. Motion passed.

The Council thanked all the citizens that have been involved in the committee since its inception.

Trails, Open Space – Ward reported this committee was also part of the dissolution discussion at the workshop.

Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to dissolve the Trails, open space and natural resources committee. Pardun, Miller and Nyenhuis in favor, Ward opposed. Motion passed.

Forest Advisory – Ward will have an update at the March meeting.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 1/12/23, 1/18/23, 2/1/23, Treasurer's Report of 1/23, List of Bills for 2/9/23, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business – None.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Nyenhuis questioned the STR review and how the Council would like to tackle that issue. He suggested the City receive comments from citizens and then assign two Council members to work with the City Attorney to review the ordinance and comments. Nyenhuis and Anderson will be the contacts on this issue.

Miller thanked public works for doing a great job on the snow removal throughout the season.

Adjournment - *Pardun moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:12pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk