

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 11, 2023

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

Citizens : Scott Spisak, Glen Mills, Mike Isensee, Jim Maher, Mary Burke, Todd Mestad, Casey Morris, Jason Sachs, Robin Brooksbank, Nealy Cocoran, Gayle Knutson, Joe Schmidt, Mark Kraske, Lynn Bjorkman, Dana Vannen, Ryan Goodman, Mike Isensee, Jennifer Rankin.

Approval of the Agenda – *Miller moved and Anderson seconded to accept the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations –

Jason Sachs and Casey Morris were in attendance as representatives from Midco Communications. The City is in the process of renewing the franchise with Midco. Mr. Sachs explained that the FCC requires Midco to have a franchise agreement for cable tv, however they also offer internet as well. The franchise agreement only addresses the cable tv, however the Council has requested Midco look into expanding the internet service to reach areas that currently do not receive Midco services. Miller stated there are still residents within the City that still cannot receive Midco internet and questioned if that will be looked at. Mr. Sachs stated the City or resident can contact Midco at any time to see if they are eligible.

Jim Maher, resident, stated he has Midco however his neighbor has been unable to connect. She does have a very long driveway and has been told she would have to pay to run the lines. Nyenhuis requested that person let the City know they are interested, and the Clerk will put them in contact with Mr. Sachs.

Robin Brooksbank – Folk School Request – Ms. Brooksbank was in attendance to request the Folk school be able to build a raised bed for plants. She has already spoken with John Goodfellow about potentially sharing a water supply with the gravel bed. She also proposed the idea of planting the plants in just the ground and not building a raised bed. The area size would be approximately 3x20 and would be fenced with deer fence. Ms. Brooksbank has spoken with the Village school and they love the idea and are very supportive. The Council did not see any issue with planting in the ground without a raised bed and the consensus was to proceed.

Ms. Brooksbank also noted the Folk School will be holding the fall festival again. There will be a special event permit application submitted for approval. The Folk School also requested permission to paint the portable classroom. It would be some sort of Scandinavian color and they would provide the materials and labor. The Council was in favor of the painting. Mayor Nyenhuis noted that the Saturday classes have been so successful that it has caused some issues with parking, especially in the winter. Anderson and the fire chief did not see this an issue as long as a fire truck can get through.

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak reported on the April meeting. The Commission, planners and DNR continue to work with the DNR on the zoning ordinance language. Continued discussion occurred on potential lot size changes in the SFU district. Final comments on the 5G

guidelines have received and the hope is to get those to Council in June.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there were 4 calls last month. Anna Hagstrom has joined as a probationary member. There was a police chase that began in Rosemount and ended just east of the tunnel. There were a memorial service for two past members of the department, Diane Johnson and Mary Skamser.

Anderson met with Anna Hagstrom on a special event permit submitted for July 1st. The street will be closed at the north end of Judd street and the west end of Linden Street. Anderson believes everything is in order however with the rental of the park, he would like to see a porta potty supplied. Nyenhuis noted it is difficult to guess how many people would be in attendance and since it is an additional expense, he wasn't sure it needs to be required. Ms. Hagstrom is also renting the park across the street and the permit requires a porta potty be supplied if attendance is at least 50 people. Nyenhuis also mentioned adding a time line on removal of the snow fencing and signs.

Anderson also noted next week is designated as police officer week. He would like a letter drafted to Sheriff Starry and his staff and signed by the Mayor to be sent out next week.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve Anna Hagstrom as a probationary member for a period of 6 months. All in favor, motion passed.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the engineers report. The pre-construction meeting for the seal coat was held this morning. Work will begin either May 22nd or 23rd and details are on the City website.

MnDOT has not responded regarding the advanced speed warning and Ryan will continue to follow up on that.

Ward questioned if he attended the open house for the Osceola bridge. He did not, however there is information on line. Miller noted the timeline and details are still being worked out.

Dana Vannenn questioned if they have a runoff issue on their street, what is the process to address that. Pardun stated they should contact the City Clerk.

Mike Isensee, Watershed District, was in attendance to review the street sweeping grant. The Watershed is looking for approval from the City to move forward with the grant. The grant would allow the Watershed to pay for two street sweeping events during the year. The purpose is to target specific areas and reduce the phosphorus that enters the St. Croix river.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the enhanced street sweeping grant application through the Lower St. Croix Partnership. All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – Ward reported there was walkaround meeting with several stakeholders to look at the Millstream and Millpond area. The Watershed District has completed an assessment of the Millstream condition last fall. The results were broken into 5 segments. Three of the five segments scored very well however segments two and four (area through Burris park) scored extremely low. The district staff would like to request the Watershed board approve a

geomorphic survey and existing conditions plan and would like support from the Council to move forward. Pardun noted the pond in Burriss as created in the 1940's and questioned if this process is to determine the best steps moving forward for both the pond and the stream.

Anderson believes the Watershed is a trusted partner with the City and the Council is in full support of the work they do and would like to do.

Dana Vannen noted there is now an algae bloom in segment four and questioned if that area will be addressed. That area is located on private land and also has two dams. Isensee noted that is a very complex area and this is only the first year of a ten year plan and those other areas will be addressed down the road.

Cemetery – Nyenhuis noted the outside boundary survey is complete. Jennifer Rankin from the MN Historical Society was in attendance to discuss the archeology and ground penetrating work in the cemetery. This project would be in collaboration with the University of MN and potentially could be a graduate research project in the fall. Ms. Rankin believes she should know by June as to whether there will be a student interested. Nyenhuis noted the area in question is a section that was historically platted on the southwest end of the cemetery but has remained vacant. There is still a segment to the west that can be platted in the meantime.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Pardun and Miller met with staff to look at soil samples at the drainfield. The results showed that the resting areas show the soil is completely recharged, which is great news and will help in extending the life of the drainfield. There are areas with concrete foundations that is not holding up so well and they will look at what the options are for either replacing or repairing those areas. Once the bids come back, Pardun will present to Council.

City Properties – Mayor Nyenhuis moved the Mill site discussion up to this agenda item. Jennifer Rankin did a walk through of the Mill site and noticed that there are many archeological resources that are exposed. Currently the plan is to perform several shoreline assessments during both dry and wet times of the summer to monitor the features and evaluate the risks during those changing conditions. MHS will also be delineating various foundations along the trails as well. There has also been a request to MHS to potentially do a transfer of property from MHS to the City. As part of this request, a survey must be completed to determine if there are archeological resources in the area. This will consist of traditional excavations but also the use of drones and ground penetrating radar. Miller noted there are many tunnels within that area, and cautioned the team. Nyenhuis noted that communication to the residents is very important and requested MHS engage the citizens and Mill site committee as much as possible. Ward has reached out to the Village School and library as well to include this as a community outreach.

Pardun noted the City has been saving money for the salt shed and they have received some updated pricing and will present that information at the June meeting.

Pardun reported that an inspection was done of the Red Bridge last summer by the structural engineers from Bolton Menk and some of those maintenance items will be done this year. Ward has some reservations from the report and read a statement listing out the various items she has concerns with. Ryan Goodman stated he was asked to do a quick inspection and not a true analysis. To have a detailed inspection done would cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and would require the hiring of a certified firm that has climbers. He also noted that once this is done, the City may not

want the results because of the requirements for potential upgrades that would be mandated. Ryan suggested the City post a notice that limits the number of people on the bridge at one time if they are concerned. Pardun stated we asked for this type of inspection because the City monitors the bridge and a significant amount of work was done to the bridge in 2008, which any Council member has the ability to review that report. He believes the bridge is safe and Bolton Menk did exactly what the Council asked them to do and anything further would require considerable discussion and they must be open to the idea that if that is done, the bridge may not be usable. Miller noted that Dan Froiland has done extensive work on the bridge in 2008. This bridge was designed specifically for pedestrians and if it was unsafe for pedestrians then the City engineer would have noted that. Anderson has had some concerns that the bridge is not to code however he also realizes that the bridge is important to this town. He believes that the engineer did exactly what was asked of him and is interested in what the City Attorney would say about liability, however he also believes if a more extensive study is done the bridge would be condemned. After further discussion, Nyenhuis noted the bridge has been reconstructed many times in the last 50 years. He believes it is probably time to look at it again but that the Council needs to have an honest dialog about the future of this bridge. He would like a couple of Council members take this issue on and consider solutions.

Dana Vannen believes the work done was a survey review of the bridge and not a full structural evaluation. There was also discussion of whether fundraising efforts should begin now in anticipation of work to be done. There is currently \$35,000 in City funds set aside for the Red Bridge. Pardun wants full direction from the Council before moving forward.

Anderson and Pardun met with the City Engineer and Vinco on lease negotiations. Once the lease negotiations are complete, the City will schedule a public meeting.

Community Events – Gregg Brooksbank will no longer be organizing the memorial day service after this year, so the City will be looking for additional volunteers.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Forest Advisory – Ward reported there will be 450 white pine seedlings given out on Arbor Day, May 20th. Saturday, May 27th will be the first Buckthorn Buster work day. Joe Schmidt, resident, reported the work will be done between highway 95 and the Stonehouse museum. Anyone willing to work can attend this event. Pardun questioned what will happen with the brush. The committee would like to just stack it for now given the significant amount and then the committee will look for volunteers to burn the piles throughout the year. Ward is still looking for volunteers for the tree care team.

Anderson stated the American Elm tree has been planted in Gazebo park.

Mayor Nyenhuis read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

Consent Calendar – *Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 4/13/23, Treasurer's Report of 4/23, List of Bills for 5/11/23, Zoning Administrators Report, Public*

Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Old/New Business –

Miller reported there is an opportunity for the City to be a part of the Community Block Development grant through Washington County. This program benefits residents with block grants for home loans. This will also allow the City to apply for federal grants. The benefit will go into effect next July. Pardun believes this has been brought to Council before and they opted not to opt it. After further discussion, Anderson is okay

Miller moved and Anderson seconded that the City of Marine opt in to the Washington County CDBG and Home program through Washington County with the understanding that if there is discovery that there is anything detrimental to the City that we have the ability to then opt out. All in favor, motion passed.

Mill site Property Discussion - Ward and Nyenhuis had discussions with Curt Moe and MHS regarding a possible transfer of property from MHS to the City and there are currently ongoing discussions. The initial email was sent advising the Council of this more than a year and a half ago and the discussions are just now taking place.

Pardun does not recall seeing an email regarding this issue. Nyenhuis will find the email and forward to the Council.

Pardun also noted that Washington County funding from the State for the storm damage has been approved and therefore the City will receive reimbursement for 75% of cost for clean up.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Mayor Nyenhuis read a thank you note from Joel Stedman for the Memorial service flowers.

Adjournment - *Miller moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 9:08pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk