

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, June 8, 2023

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Isiah Bubany, Mike Tibbetts, Kitzie Vadheim (zoom), Dana Vannen Anderson, Ross Higgins, Dorothy Deetz (zoom), Larry/Gwen Roden.

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

Citizens Considerations – None

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak submitted a written report on the Planning Commission activities since the last meeting. There was another meeting with the DNR to discuss the zoning ordinance changes. There continues to be a challenge with the DNR wanting all substandard structures in the St. Croix Overlay District to be held to bluff line and OHW setbacks in the event they are damaged and needed to be replaced. The Commission will be seeking advice from the City Attorney as to whether the City has recourse. There are also discussions surrounding the rezoning of the Mill Site property.

. The Commission is also discussing the possibility of lowering the minimum lot size in the SFU District. The 5G wireless guidelines are complete and have been presented to Council for approval. The Council thanked the Commission for their work on this issue and for being proactive.

Miller moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the 5G wireless communication guidelines as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported the fire hall was pressured washed. There were nine runs since the last Council meeting. The Street dance will be held on Saturday, June 17th. There are three members that are currently in training. There is a new fire fighter that Chief Mills is requesting be approve.

Miller move and Ward seconded to accept Tom Heinz as a probationary member. All in favor, motion passed.

Miller reported that the Brookside has been working on parking and traffic during the weekend events and is currently using the church parking lot for additional parking. There does seem to be an issue with parking on both sides of the street along 3rd Street behind the post office. Miller would like to see the City place temporary no parking signs on one side of the road. Washington County has also been patrolling more as well. Nyenhuis noted that if the no parking signs are not permanent, it cannot be enforced however it may help as a deterrent. The Council consensus was to try the temporary no parking signs and then re-evaluate. Dorothy Deetz, resident, questioned which side of the street the no parking will be placed. Miller noted they will be placed on the west side.

Miller also reported the money coming from the State legislative funds will be further discussed as to how they will be spent.

The DNR and National Park Service have been patrolling the river, however there are still issues with mud motors and air boats. They encouraged residents to continue to call and report these issues.

William O'Brien will be closing the lower park beginning after Labor Day and will remain closed through 2024. There will be an open house at the Mahtomedi library at the end of June to discuss the details.

Roads –Isiah Bubany was in attendance from Bolton Menk to present the Engineering report. The crack fill and seal coat are in progress. The notices for work continue to be posted on the website for residents. The first contractors request for payment has been submitted in the amount of \$22,372.50.

The downtown Village Center project work is approaching the two-year warranty period. There have been some issues with some of the sidewalks however it is unclear as to whether the cracking is due to workmanship or not. The cost to repair those sections would be \$6,000. There was a compromised suggested that the City and contractor split the cost. The Council consensus was to move forward.

Pardun moved to and Miller seconded to pay \$3,000 to Dressel contracting for the sidewalk panels as presented by the City Engineer. All in favor, motion passed.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the contractor's payment to Pearson Bro's in the amount of \$22,372.50. All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – Ward has been working with the Watershed on a planting plan for the water basins. There will be approximately 15 trees being planted next week, and that will leave approximately 30 tamarack trees left. These trees will be donated to the residents on Judd Street who have removed an enormous amount of buckthorn from the alley area behind their homes. Nyenhuis questioned how this project will be funded. Ward reported the Watershed will be paying for these plantings. Pardun noted that the Council has never agreed to the replacement of the plantings anywhere downtown.

Ward moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the tree and shrub planting plan for the watershed basins as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Miller noted the discussions on the Mill Site property and potential ownership and uses for that property. He noted the last time the City looked at purchasing property it was the school property and a committee was formed for that purpose. He would like to see the Council look at forming a task force for this issue and he would like to see this issue added to the agenda in the future.

Nyenhuis stated this item was added at the beginning of the meeting as an agenda amendment, which it should have. In addition, any agenda item a Council member wishes to add in the future

should be sent through the Clerk's office.

Cemetery – There was a great article in the Country Messenger from Mark McGinley regarding the history of the cemetery and believes this will be handy for the upcoming discussions for the expansion.

Water/Wastewater Systems – No new report.

City Properties – Ward has been working with Council member Pardun on a recommendation for the Red Bridge. They would like the City Engineer to create a document that would include inspections and testing options, costs, timelines and a maintenance history. Once this is done, then the Council can begin to consider long and short-term options.

Gwen Roden, resident, questioned if the Red Bridge is under the prevue of the Restoration Society or City. The Restoration Society was used in 2008 for fundraising purposes, however it is owned by the City.

Mike Tibbetts, resident, questioned if there has been an issue with the Red Bridge that is causing this topic. Ward noted this is based off of an inspection report submitted by the City Engineer, however there are no pending repair issues at this time.

Ward reported a grant has been awarded through the MN Historical Society for the Stone House Museum. It will be used for creating a long-term capital improvement plan and cyclical maintenance report. There is no money that will be required on the part of the City as part of this grant. There are also several new volunteers that are involved with the museum.

The grant request for the Village Hall was not approved, however Ward would like to reapply again.

Community Events – Mayor Nyenhuis thanked Gregg Brooksbank for his many years of putting together the Memorial Day service and noted he will be stepping down from that roll. The City will be looking for someone else to take that event over, along with looking for volunteers to help with the July 4th events.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Forest Advisory – The buckthorn has been removed between highway 95 and the Stonehouse Museum and it looks great.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/11/23, Treasurer's Report of 5/23, List of Bills for 6/8/23, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes.*
All in favor, motion passed.

Old/New Business – None

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Mayor Nyenhuis thanked the Restoration Society for a very successful Progressive Dinner.

Adjournment - *Pardun moved and Ward seconded to adjourn at 7:45pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk