

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2023

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Scott/Jean Spisak, Gerry Mroska, Gwen/Larry Roden, Win Miller, Kim Kokx, Matt Anderson, Ryan Goodman, Todd Mestad, Paul Paladie, Cheryl Johnson, Kitzie Vadheim.

Approval of the Agenda – Ward requested to add Water basin construction update under Water Systems.

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

Citizens Considerations –

Win Miller – Win Miller was in attendance to report on the Marine Village School. There was a fundraising event earlier in the summer that raised \$85,000 which was greatly needed. The school still owes \$27,400 in rent which will be paid at the end of July. Next year the rent will be based on 100 students, which will be \$146,000 however that will also require an amendment to the lease agreement which he would like to address later in the fall. Dr. Kokx, principle of the school, reported the school is fully staffed K-5th grade and there are enough students that there will be no combined classes next year. The school is about to perform their fifth play production of the year as well. The school will also have two buses running this fall, however there will still be a significant group of parents driving their kids.

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak reported on the June meeting. The Commission members had an opportunity to attend a watershed educational workshop on the Taylors Falls Princess. The members were also able to engage in a productive conversation with the DNR representatives that are working on the zoning code as well.

The consultants continue to work on the code updates and there are a few items that will require the opinion of the City Attorney.

Maggie Raedeke will present her Capstone project report at the July 25th Commission meeting at the elementary school. The Council and citizens are welcome to attend.

The Commission has received a report from the consultants on the remaining tasks to bring the code up to date and restructured. A task list was created listing low, medium and high priority items and that would require an additional \$13,000 to complete the items. Nyenhuis believes it would be prudent to get this project complete as it does not benefit the city to wait. After further discussion, the Council agreed to the additional funding.

Ward moved and Miller seconded to allocate and not to exceed \$13,000 to the Planning commission for consulting fees. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there was an issue with Washington County getting a signal

out to many of the warning sirens around the County. This has now been resolved. There were 13 calls last month, and every new firefighter has passed their certifications. The department was able to visit the dispatch center to see their operations up close and personal. Miller noted there are several special event permit applications coming in. Mayor Nyenhuis noted the public safety committee should look into protocols for emergency situations. There was the potential for severe weather during the July 4th parade, and there was a question as to whether the City had protocols in place.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed his engineering report. The Broadway Street micro surfacing should begin early August. MnDOT agreed to install reduce speed ahead signs at the north and south ends of Highway 95 as requested. Ward commended Ryan Goodman on the recommendation report for the red bridge. Clerk Peterson also included a list of work done since 1995. This item will be included in the August agenda for further discussion.

Personnel – Pardun reported there was a recent staff meeting and one of the topics discussed was office hours. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the clerks to get work and/or projects done during the day. The proposal was to have the clerks continue to work their normal hours, however the hours the office will be open to the public will be reduced in order to give additional time to get those items complete.

Parks & Rec – Gerry Mrosła, resident of Jackson Meadow, was in attendance to discuss the DNR grant that received a few years ago for work on 32 acres of the North Meadow, of which 16 acres is City owned. That grant has expired but there is additional work that needs to be done on that area. Mr. Mrosła would like apply for another grant to complete the work. A letter of support will be provided by Mike Isensee of the watershed district as well. The City would be the grant signer, however no dollars would be required on the part of the City. Ward questioned the timeline of the grant and amount. It would be a three year grant in the amount of \$50,000. The first grant worked on clearing the property initially however since then the area has filled in with invasive species. The new grant will work on eradicating the invasive plants and creating natural and native plantings. Pardun would like to see Council oversight on these grants on the part of the park and rec committee and would like regular reports from Council member Anderson and Ward. There is also a grant for the hollow property that should be discussed in the future, and Ward would like to see a partnership with Jackson Meadow residents on the work being done. Nyenhuis wanted to clarify that this grant request is not being brought forth by any official committee of Jackson Meadow or the City, but rather the residents of the City as a whole many of which live in Jackson Meadow. It may be that at some point an official citizen committee be formed for this purpose but for now the communication will be between the residents and Council members Ward and Anderson initially.

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded that Gerry Mrosła, as a representative of the citizens of Marine on St. Croix and in conjunction with the City Council, pursue a DNR Conservation Legacy grant application. All in favor, motion passed.

Cemetery – No report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Ward met with Mike Isensee of the Watershed District on the

construction timeline for the Oak Street water basins. The work could begin as soon as next week, and will wrap up by August 15th.

City Properties –

Mill Site Properties committee – The Mill Site committee has had discussions with the MN Historical Society regarding the possibility of the City obtaining that property. Nothing formal up to this point, however there now seems to be more interest and there is a question of whether a formal committee should be created to pursue this further. Miller believes the conversation is a good one, however as with the purchase of the school property, he questioned if a committee made up of council members, Planning commission and residents should be created to pursue this issue. Gwen Roden, resident, questioned who currently maintains the property. The City has volunteers who steward that property and the City mows the open space. The MN Historical Society provides grant dollars to pay for the maintenance. There has been discussions of the City owning all of the property or just a portion as well. Currently there have no negotiations or formal discussion however. Miller will bring a formal suggestion at a future meeting.

Museum/Log Cabin Repair Proposals – Pardun submitted proposals for roof and structural repairs for the Log Cabin and Stonehouse Museum. The log cabin bid is for \$24,877, which would cover a new roof, new shingles, power washed and sealed. The family of Sven Anderson is considering a donation towards the repairs as well. Miller thanked the family for their support and opening the cabin for visitors during the summer months.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to move forward on the repair work for the settler's cabin as proposed on the bid by All Access construction in the amount of \$24,877. All in favor, motion passed.

Salt Shed – The City has been saving for several years but has not saved enough to cover the full cost. The old shed is becoming unsafe and Pardun would like to move ahead with a new shed this fall. The bid from Greystone Construction came in at \$36,800. There is currently \$30,000 in the budget so the remaining \$6,000 would need to be covered from the General fund. The new structure will be approximately three times the size of the current shed.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the bid from Greystone Construction in the amount of \$36,800. All in favor, motion passed.

School Maintenance – Pardun reported there has been significant work done on the radon fans, controller and septic tank. Public works will also be doing a few upgrades on the playground as well.

Community Events – Nyenhuis congratulated the Restoration Society on the largest running race in history. The parade went well. There is citizen input on community events. The paddle boat show was successful and there may be push to ask the City to consider this be a City sponsored event in the future.

EDA – No report.

Citizen Committee Reports–

Forest Advisory – The soil was too dry to plant the Tamaracks so the trees were donated to residents along Judd Street to plant in the wetlands.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/8/23, Treasurer’s Report of 6/23, List of Bills for 7/13/23, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business – The Community Block grant application was presented for Council approval. The grant dollars will be available next July to residents.

Miller moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the City enter into the Washington County Community Block grant agreement. All in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – Clerk Peterson requested budget items be submitted by the end of July. The Council will set budget meeting dates at the August Council meeting.

Adjournment – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:30pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk