

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Mike Tibbetts, Jim Maher, Kate Seitz, Ryan Goodman, Rosie Peters, Gwen/Larry Roden, Tom Warth, Lynn Bjorkman, Tom Omdahl, Kristina Smitten, Jeff Comins, Cecily Harris, Fran Miron, Roger Lyle, Gayle Knutson, Dorothy Deetz, Paul Paladie, Curt Moe, Annie Minich.

Approval of the Agenda – Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of comment from County Commissioner Fran Miron.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Citizens Considerations –

Folk School Request – Kate Seitz, director of the Folk School, was in attendance to request permission to have a few small campfires on school property. The Fire Chief was okay as long as there was some way to dispose of the ash. Anderson was okay with the request however would like the City Clerk notified prior to each fire. The Council also wanted to make sure the fire was contained in a ring or container and that the ash was completely out prior to leaving.

The Folk School is also looking to have a small storage shed and is requesting to keep it on school property. It would not be a permanent structure. The Council requested they work with public works and the Village School on a location. Nyenhuis also gave permission to paint the shed and requested they keep the color similar to the portable classroom.

Mike Tibbetts – Mr. Tibbetts, 940 Broadway St, wanted to discuss the Mill Stream project being done by the Watershed District. He stated there is approximately 300 yards of sediment that flows into that pond every year. He would like to see a minimal approach to the Mill pond work and have the City start a new Millstream Association and use the money that was given to the City by the previous Millstream Association to fund the project.

Ward appreciates Mr. Tibbetts comments and stated that the Watershed will be taking all citizen comments into consideration and bring those ideas forth in the spring. She does not believe the Watershed will be heavy handed in the project, and also does not believe that this meeting is the right venue to discuss these ideas in detail. Nyenhuis appreciates the comments as well, however believes the Watershed is doing a great job working with the community and will be taking those comments into consideration when working on the plan.

Jim Maher – Marla Update – Jim Maher was in attendance to update the Council on the Jordan bequest and the issue of moving those funds into the St. Croix Valley Foundation. The Washington County Board of Commissioners met earlier this week and voted to support the transfer of funds. MarLa has presented a revised Joint Powers Agreement between the City and County that would need to be approved prior to moving forward. Commissioner Fran Miron believes the goal is to establish that bequest fund into perpetuity and moving them into an endowment fund would accomplish that. Miller noted that Marla would only be using the interest and not principle if possible, which will also help to accomplish that goal. Commissioner Miron appreciates the work done between Marla and the County to get this accomplished and the County appreciates the work going on with the library and dedication of the volunteers.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the joint powers agreement between the City and Washington County.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak reported on the November meeting. The Commission held a workshop and set the public hearing date for the zoning code amendment. The hearing will be held on January 30, 2024 with formal adoption at the February Council meeting. The DNR has also conditionally approved the amendments, which will allow this process to move forward. There will be a link sent with the finalized documents to allow the Council and public to review and comments prior to the public hearing.

Tim Casey has agreed to renew his term for an additional three years and Ed Sanderson will not be renewing his term. The open position is currently posted.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve Tim Casey for an additional three year term.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there were nine calls last month.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the engineering report.

MnDot has approved the request Jake Brake sign request, however they will require the City to pay for the signage. Pardun reported the cost for two signs will be \$3,016.00. Anderson believes the cost is higher than he would like to see, however he believes these signs are needed and that it

is money well spent. These will also allow Washington County to enforce this issue with the semi's driving through town. Ward does not believe there is the enforcement capacity for all of the signs that are being installed and would like to see a comprehensive speed reduction study. Pardun stated again that the chance of the speed limit being reduced if a study is done is extremely low however the chance of the speed being increase is very high.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve a payment to MnDOT in the amount of \$3.016 for the installation of No Jake Braking signs.

*Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the.
Nyenhuis yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Pardun yes
Ward yes
All in favor, motion passed*

2025-2027 Street Projects – Pardun reported that in advance of the 2025-2027 street projects, the soil boring tests need to be complete. Braun Intertec came in the low bidder in the amount of \$17,250.

*Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve the bid from Braun Intertec for the 2025-2027 street improvement projects in the amount of \$17,250.
Nyenhuis yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Pardun yes
Ward yes
All in favor, motion passed*

Personnel – Pardun reported that he and Mayor Nyenhuis completed staff reviews. He publicly thanked all City staff.

Parks & Rec – Ward reported the final management plan for the Hollow is complete. Miller thanked the committee as this process was very long. Ward thank the members of the committee as well, Eileen Hunter, Kristina Smitten, John Goodfellow and Julie Warren.

*Ward moved and Miller seconded to approve the final management plan for the Hollow as presented.
Nyenhuis yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Pardun yes
Ward yes
All in favor, motion passed*

Ward moved and Miller seconded to approve the contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes as presented.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Cemetery – No Report.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Pardun presented a proposal for the septic drainfield evaluation in the amount of \$12,500.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the proposal by Bolton and Menk for the drainfield evaluation in the amount of \$12,500.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

City Properties – The Council held a workshop to discuss the dumpster and porta potty enclosures. The discussion was productive and the next step is to discuss the options with City Attorney to come to a conclusion.

Red Bridge Proposal – Pardun presented a Scan and Scope proposal for the Red Bridge maintenance. The targets will be installed in 2024 and 2025 and the results will be reviewed at the end of that timeframe to determine if additional work will need to be done.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to accept the proposal by Bolton Menk, option A as presented, in the amount of

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Cell Tower – Anderson reported he and Pardun have been in further discussion with Vinco and there has been movement in the negotiations and hopes to have something to present to the Council in January.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Miller presented the member list of the committee for approval. There is still one committee position open.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the following members of the committee:

Bill Miller – Council

Win Miller – Marine Village School

Robin Brooksbank – Folk School

Lisa White – Resident

Scott Spisak – Planning commission

Kristina Smitten – Planning commission

Cathy Wegener – At Large

Kate Seitz – Alternate

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Forest Advisory – The City is in its 6th year of being a Tree City USA.

Community Events – The Enchanted Forest is complete.

EDA – No report.

Mill site Committee – No Report.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/9/23, 11/30/23, Treasurer's Report of 11/23, List of Bills for 11/9/23, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, 2024 Liquor License renewals. Resolution 231214-01, Building Inspector contract, 2024 STR license renewals, Certification of delinquent utilities, 2023 reserve funds, Washington County MOU.*

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Old/New Business –

2024 Levy – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to set the 2024 levy at \$1,32778.83 which represents a 5.2% increase over 2023.*

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Citizens of the Year – Miller would like to nominate Mary Margaret Skamser posthumously. Mary was the City's head election judge, a long standing volunteer on the ambulance and the Art Fair committee member for many years.

Miller also nominated the Marine Civic Club for a life time achievement award. The organization began in 1922 and over the years had taken on the management of the Stonehouse Museum. These members are Peg Arnason, Shirley Mills, June Eagleton, Isabel Steele, Kay Hempel, Kay Anderson, Saima Savela, Judy Kavanagh, Lynn LaTart, Marylin Cummins, Lorelee DiLorenzo, Lisa White, Kevin Nyenhuis, Larry Gilbert, Gayle Knutson, Mary Smith, Linda Tibbetts, Janet Johanson and Mary Smith. Mayor Nyenhuis gave the history of the Civic Club and believes the leaders of the Civic Club of whom really took on the and would like to see those people recognized rather than the list of all members. These leaders are June Eagleton, Peg Arnason, Isabel Steele and Kay Hempel. Discussion was held as to whether the award would go to the club or the four members called out.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve Mary Skamer as the 2023 Citizen of the Year posthumously.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Miller moved and Ward seconded to award all past and present members of the Civic Club as listed a lifetime achievement award.

After further discussion:

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to amend the original motion.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Miller move and Anderson seconded to award a Lifetime Achievement Award to June Eagleton, Peg Arnason, Isabel Steele and Kay Hempel.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Mayor Nyenhuis reported a resident of Marine, Parker Ziegler, is working towards his Eagle Scout award and is looking for a project within the City. The project will be to replace the walkway and handrail at the ice rink. Public Works will work with Parker on the details of the project.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 8:23pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk