

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nyenhuis at 7:00pm. Nyenhuis, Pardun (zoom), Ward, Anderson (7:13) and Miller (zoom) present.

Citizens: Glen Mills, Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Jim Maher, Isaih Bubany, Larry/Gwen Roden, Mary Fernstrum, Dave Sours, Mark McGinley, Linda Tibbetts, Tom Omdahl, Ross Higgins, Jeremy , Lisa Dochniak, Heather Logelin, Kristina Smitten, Jeff Comins, Bob Benishek, Todd Mestad, Gayle Knutson, Annie Minich, Mark Kraske, Dave Snyder, Paul Paladie.

Approval of the Agenda –

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

Designate Official Depository –

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to designate Lon Pardun as acting Mayor, that the monthly meeting date be the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, that the Country Messenger be the official newspaper, that the Security State Bank of Marine be the official depository, that Johnson and Turner be the official legal firm, that Bolton & Menk be the City Engineer, HKGI be the City Planner and that Robert Rules of Order, Revised, be the official rules of the meeting.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Citizens Considerations –

Jim Maher – Jordan Bequest Update – Jim Maher was in attendance to update the Council on the Jordan bequest. Last month the City Council approved a joint powers agreement in December, however a bullet point was left out addressing Marla providing internet service, which the County is requiring. Maher also noted that his term as president of Marla is ending and he thanked the Council for their support during his time.

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

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Stewards of Marine Proposal – Lisa Dochniak was in attendance to advise the Council that she, along with other members of the community, have created a 501.3C under the name of Stewards of Marine. The members include Andy Kramer, Mark McGinley, Mary Fernstrum, Tom Omdahl, Linda Tibbetts, Bob Benishek and Jennifer Henry. This group would like to take over where the Civic Club left off. Dochniak presented a resolution from 2002 between the Civic Club and the City defining the roles of the Civic Club regarding the Stonehouse Museum and this group would like to maintain and potentially expand that agreement. Ward thanked the previous members of the Civic Club and this new group for continuing their mission, and would like to see this group carry on the responsibilities stated in that resolution. All Council members vocalized their support of this group and are excited to see what ideas this group has. Nyenhuis suggested the Council have a workshop with the group to review their ideas and decide who would be the group liaison. Pardun believes that would be an option, however he believes the group can begin to move forward in the meantime and bring their proposed ideas to Council. Ms. Dochniak stated the group will bring forth a revised resolution laying out their ideas and responsibilities and will submit prior to the March meeting. In the meantime, Ward and Pardun will be the point persons to the group.

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak thanked Ed Sanderson for his time on the Planning Commission. He then reported on the December workshop. The public hearing for the Zoning code updates will be held on January 30th with formal adoption at the February Council meeting. The Planner has also reviewed Chapter 2 of the City Code regarding Planning Commission roles and the request would be for Council to approve that amendment in February as well.

Spisak would also like to schedule the annual Commission and Council workshop between the February and March meetings. Ward questioned if there are specific parts of the Zoning Code that the Council should focus on. Spisak noted that the majority of the code changes have been reviewed by Council in 2021, however the river district section has significant changes to meet DNR requirements. There has also been a suggestion that the City pursue legislative relief on a few items, which will require work on the part of the City to contact legislatures and lobbyists to initiate the issue. Pardun also thanked Ed Sanderson for an exceptional job on the Commission.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported there were 7 calls last month – 4 rescue and 3 fires. The weather will be cold enough to begin flooding the rink. Anderson recognized Chris Majeski, Washington County Sheriff, for pulling a citizen out of a burning vehicle.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineering report. The Red Bridge monitoring is complete. The drainfield system evaluation was done in December and the results should be ready for the March meeting. Braun Intertec was out to complete the soil borings for the upcoming road

construction projects.

Personnel – Pardun reported that the clerks have discussed wanting to increase office hours in order to increase work that has not been able to get done. She has increased her hours from 24 to 32. As part of this, her hourly pay rate will increase to \$29.80 per hour, with an additional \$120 per month for the health insurance stipend. Pardun noted that there was \$15,000 in fiscal disparity budgeted for the Marine school budget but was not needed, and therefore Pardun would like to use that money to cover the salary increase.

Pardun moved and Ward seconded to increase the hourly salary for the assistant clerk to \$29.80 per hour, along with an additional \$120 per month for health insurance.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Parks & Rec – Anderson noted that the DNR is offering an outdoor recreation grant. Anderson believes this may be a good opportunity to get canoe racks for the boat moorage locations and also a potential picnic shelter in Burris park. The deadline is April 1st so there is time to consider those projects.

CMSCWD Award – Ward reported that the Carnelian Marine Watershed District was recognized as Watershed District of the Year and she noted how lucky the City is to have them working with the City on various projects.

Conservation District Recognition – Ward also stated that John Goodfellow was named the 2023 Conservation District of the Year award and congratulated him on his numerous projects and contributions to Marine and surrounding communities.

Cemetery – Nyenhuis presented a proposal for a cemetery advisory committee. This committee would work on future infrastructure and master plan for the west portion of the cemetery. The timeline for this committee would be approximately 12-18 months or when a master plan has been created. Nyenhuis is still making a few changes to the committee charge and will bring forth the final proposal at the February meeting for approval.

Ward questioned if there would be enough interest to satisfy the number of committee members. Nyenhuis believes he will be able to recruit that number of people as stated. Anderson suggested a member of Christ Lutheran Church as part of the committee. Pardun would like the committee to keep in mind the very small number of lots that are currently available and see that the process moves along somewhat quickly.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Pardun stated he was in attendance for the drainfield testing. He believes it went well and will have a full report for Council in March.

City Properties – Miller reported that he and the Mayor met with the City Attorney regarding the dumpster enclosure issue. The outcome of that meeting was to not pursue ownership of the pumper building and since then the contents of the building have been removed. There will be a meeting between Miller, Nyenhuis and the Brookside on January 24th.

Cell Tower – Anderson reported that there have been further negotiation discussions with Vinco and SMC holdings and there is now a proposed lease that has been agreed upon by all parties. The major sticking points that have been resolved were landlord remedies, taxes and the lease option. Nyenhuis questioned if this will resolve the public safety concern. Anderson believes this will solve the public safety issue, however as of now there will only be one carrier so it may not solve all cell phone issues in town. Anderson thanked Council members Pardun and Miller for all of their work over the past five years to get this done.

Anderson moved and Pardun seconded to accept the cell tower lease agreement between the City of Marine on St. Croix and SMC Holdings LLC subject to finalization of any nonsubstantive details identified by staff and the committee.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Miller reported the committee's first meeting will be Saturday, January 13th.

Forest Advisory – No report.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – No report.

Mill Site Committee – Ward reported that the MN Historical Society has completed their archeological survey of the Mill Site. The survey was to determine if the land was able to hold new signs without disturbing anything underground. The second survey was done by core samples and drone footage to look for artifacts. Once the full report is received from MNHS, it will be forwarded to Council for review.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/14/23 with a correction to City Properties, Treasurer's Report of 12/23, List of Bills for 12/14/23, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, 2024 revised fee schedule, 2023 budget transfers and 2023 additional reserve funds as presented.*

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes
Pardun yes
Ward yes
All in favor, motion passed

Old/New Business – Clerk Peterson questioned if the Council wanted to move forward with having the City Attorney at future City Council meetings. Anderson and Nyenhuis do not see the need for his attendance at monthly meetings. Ward does like the presence of the City Attorney, however is willing to go either way. Pardun initially was not on board, however after reflecting on past meetings, he believes that having the Attorney at the meetings via Zoom is a good idea. The Council chose to not make that decision at this time.

Miller noted again that the lower portion of William O'Brien is closed and believes it will be a worthy discussion for Council on how this may affect the downtown over the summer. Anderson believes there may be a need for temporary no parking signs on second street as part of the discussion.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Adjournment –*Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 8:28pm.*

Nyenhuis yes
Anderson yes
Miller yes
Pardun yes
Ward yes
All in favor, motion passed

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk