

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, March 14, 2024

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, John Goodfellow, Kitzie Vadheim, Ross Higgins, Scott Spisak, Ryan Marsel, Gerry Mroska, Curt Moe, Dorothy Deetz, Matt Anderson, Megan Kavanagh, Gayle Knutson, Jane Powell, Andy Kramer, Kristina Smitten, Lisa Dochniak, Dave Sours, Roger Lyle, Annie Minich, Ryan Goodman, Jennifer Henry, Mike Isensee, Mary Fernstrum.

Approval of the Agenda – Ward requested to pull two items from the agenda – the MN Historical Society presentation and Legacy grant request.

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 –

Restoration Society Request – Megan Kavanagh and Jane Powell were in attendance on behalf of the Restoration Society to request the Council approve a landscaping project around the Gazebo. The project would include potentially encasing the electrical box, pavers and plantings around the entire building. Abrahamson's would be providing and installing the plants and the Restoration Society would cover the entire cost of the project. Volunteers will cover the maintenance and watering for the first year. Nyenhuis was concerned about elevation where the pavers are concerned and would like to make sure the ground is landscaped to avoid any hazards. Dave Sours, resident, questioned if pollinator friendly plants have been considered. Kavanagh stated they had not, but they certainly can.

Gayle Knutson – Ms. Knutson was in attendance to request the City move the December Truth in Taxation meeting in order to accommodate their documentary night. Nyenhuis and Ward were in favor. Miller would like to make sure that the City is not setting a precedent for moving City meetings for outside events.

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to move the 2024 Truth in Taxation meeting to December 3rd from December 5th.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak reported on the February meeting. There were two CUP pre-applications. The first an accessory building in Jackson Meadow and the second is a fence request over the 6ft limit. The commission is also continuing to address the list of items that have been on the “to do list”. These include solar and residential care facilities. They are also addressing new topics such as cannabis and the ticketed events as a home occupation.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported the new fire truck is in operation and a proposal was received to purchase the 1994 Freightliner in the amount of \$10,000 from T-Line EV LLC.

Anderson noted that there is an early fire season this year with the weather being so dry.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to accept the proposal from in the amount of \$10,000 from T-Line EV LLC.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

All in favor, motion passed

Roads – Ryan Goodman reported the road restrictions go off on Monday. This will be good news for the bid process. Ward questioned if there would be federal or state funds available to help with the 2025 street project. Goodman stated there is no federal funding available for a city this size completing a local street project. He stated there may be funding available around any future school improvements however. Scott Spisak noted there are a few areas on the north end of the school where the road is platted in a different location of the traveled surface. This is something that will need to be addressed down the road.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to authorize Bolton and Menk to go out for bids for the 2024 crack seal project with contract approval at the May 2024 Council meeting.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to authorize Bolten and Menk to prepare plans and specifications for the 2025 street improvement projects.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec –

Millstream Workshop Update – The Watershed District held an open house back in November to gather input from residents as to what they would like to see happen with the Millstream within Burris Park. The next step is to create renderings from the input for the stream restoration and begin to develop cost estimates for the designs. The next public meeting for this process will be held on June 4th at the Village Hall. The Watershed District is requesting support from the City Council to apply for a grant to assist in the design process. The grant would require a City match in the amount of \$15,000, payable in 2025. Anderson suggested using the donation from the Millstream Association, which is approximately \$8,000, towards that match. The Council consensus was that this is a valuable project and the City is in favor of moving forward with the grant. Nyenhuis noted that the citizen comments were varying and there seems to be some conflicting ideas as to what should happen with that space. The Watershed will be requesting a resolution for the grant approval in April.

Mr. Isensee also stated that the Watershed will be updating their rules beginning in 2025.

North Meadow Update – Kristina Smitten was in attendance to update the Council on the North Meadow grant project. The work plan has been slightly revised and Stantec has agreed to work with the City and Jackson Meadow on preparing the RFQ. The draft RFQ was sent out today with a request for comment by next Monday. Once the proposals are received, the contract will be presented to the Council for formal approval. Smitten suggested Ward and Anderson review the RFQ verbiage and comment as the Council liaisons. Ward would like to deadline for comment be extended one week to give time to review the document as they just received it today. Smitten noted that would push the contract approval to May. Miller stated that documents for Council review should be sent in a timely manner in order to give Council adequate time to review prior to the meeting. Nyenhuis noted if the Council is looking for additional time to comment, that would most likely require a workshop for Council to discuss prior to the April meeting. Ward does not believe a workshop is required, however she would like time for John Goodfellow, Council member Anderson and herself to review the document. Nyenhuis questioned when Mr. Goodfellow became a voting member of the workgroup on this project. Ward explained he is not a voting member, however does provide an expert and valued opinion. After further discussion, Anderson believes a little more time to review the document is not out of line and would like to see this pushed out a couple of weeks and addressed at the April meeting. Pardun believes the Council has already approved the work plan for this project and believes the RFQ simply defines the work and that there is no reason the Council could not allow this to move forward. After further discussion, Anderson and Ward will review the document and then will bring forth again at the April meeting.

Cemetery – Landmark Surveying has been working on the re-platting of the cemetery boundary, and preparing the legal descriptions for the two street vacations. Clerk Peterson will present a resolution in April to set the street vacation public hearing, which will take place at the May meeting.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Pardun reported that a drainfield update will be discussed in April. He would like to schedule a workshop prior to the April council meeting to discuss the details. The Clerk will work on getting a meeting date scheduled.

City Properties –

Stewards of Marine – The Stewards of Marine have submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the group. Pardun noted there are a couple of amendments he would like to make within the document. These include striking the requirement for telecommunications and additional storage space. Ward would also like to change the language in the fourth Whereas from “are willing” to “will”.

Ward moved and Pardun seconded to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with the noted amendments between the City of Marine on St. Croix and Stewards of Marine Mills History.

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Anderson noted that the attorneys have agreed on the final language for the cell tower lease and that should be coming forward for City signatures in the next week.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – The committee has selected a regular meeting date moving forward.

Forest Advisory – John Goodfellow reported there is an opportunity to be involved in a project with the DNR to do an inventory of the 40 acres behind the maintenance shop using remote sensing. Anderson questioned if the inventory would include things like buckthorn as he believes that is necessary. This inventory would focus on the timber, including species and volume. Mr. Goodfellow is looking for support from the Council to request the City move forward with the application process. There is no cost to the City but also no guarantee the City would be selected. Pardun and Nyenhuis would like to see more detailed information prior to making any decision. Anderson stated the information can be sent through the City Clerk and the City can revisit in April.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – No report.

Mill Site Committee – The committee met on Tuesday with the MN Historical Society. There is a very detailed findings report on the Mill site archaeological dig that was performed. There is one small location to the south that would be conducive for any potential future development. The MHS laid out a process for any transfer of property to the City. The committee will meet again to

review the information from MHS and then bring more information to the Council in the near future.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 2/8/24, 2/13/24 and 2/27/24, Treasurer’s Report of 2/24, List of Bills for 3/14/24, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Torte liability waiver and Watershed board nomination resolution.*

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

Old/New Business – The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 9:00am. Ward, Miller and Nyenhuis will be in attendance.

Cannabis Moratorium – *Anderson moved and Miller seconded to adopt Resolution 031424-01, Ordinance 177, an amended interim ordinance authorizing a study and imposing a moratorium on the operation of cannabis businesses and establishing of certain agricultural buildings.*

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

Dumpster Enclosure Agreement - Clerk Peterson presented a draft encroachment agreement for the Brookside dumpster enclosure. She stated this was simply to receive questions and/or feedback at this time. If none, then Council member Miller and Mayor Nyenhuis will present to the Brookside owners for review and comment. Once there is an agreement on the verbiage, then the final document will be brought to Council for consideration and approval.

Clerk Peterson also stated the Brookside Bar and Grill has presented plans for remodeling the outdoor patio. She has reviewed the plans with the Planning Commission chairman, however would like to have one or two Council members involved in the process as well, much like the dumpster enclosure process. Nyenhuis and Miller have agreed to assist in the review.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report –
. The Log Cabin that was erected for the Enchanted Forest will be taken down this weekend. William O’Brien has released the details of the work being done with the lower park closure which will be posted on the website.

Adjournment –*Nyenhuis moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:47pm.*

Nyenhuis yes

Anderson yes

Miller yes

Pardun yes

Ward yes

All in favor, motion passed

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk