

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

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Billy McLaughlin, Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow, Ross Higgins, Jeremy Chi, Annie Minich, Matt Thueson, Cheryl Johnson, Kitzie Vadheim, Paul Paladie, Ryan Goodman, Curt Moe, Matt Anderson, Todd Mestad, Dorothy Deetz, Cecily Harris.

Approval of the Agenda – Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda as drafted. All in favor, motion passed.

Miller suggested the Mayor ask for amendments prior to the motion to accept. Nyenhuis will take into consideration.

Citizens Considerations –

Billy McLaughlin – Hall Rental Reduction Request – Mr. McLaughlin was in attendance to request a rent reduction for his hall rental on May 1st. He has been performing at the Village Hall for over 15 years and is requesting the Council consider him a “honorary resident” and be allowed to pay the resident rate for all of his events throughout the year. After discussion, the Council thought it would be fair to charge the non-resident rate for one performance and the resident rate for all additional performances.

Nyenhuis moved to approve the following rental rates for Bill McLaughlin for 2024 – The spring concert at the resident rate and December concert the first night at non-resident rate and remaining nights the resident rate. Ward, Nyenhuis, Pardun, Miller in favor, Anderson against. Motion passed.

Brookside Tree Proposal – The Brookside Bar and Grill has submitted a request to remove and replace one spruce tree and one crabapple tree that are by the property line on Parker Street.

Ward moved to deny the request by the Brookside to remove the crab apple tree and approve the request to remove the spruce tree. After three requests, the motion failed for lack of a second. Ward noted that the crab apple is one of 10 that had been planted in the past of which there are only three remaining, and she would be very sad to see it removed.

Anderson moved to approve the request by the Brookside Bar and Grill to remove a spruce and crab apple tree from the property at no cost to the City and replace with a deciduous and evergreen tree. Anderson, Miller, Pardun, Nyenhuis in favor, Ward against, motion passed.

Planning Commission – Chairman Spisak reported on the March meeting. There is a CUP application for an 8 ft fence on Quant Ave and that public hearing will be on April 30th. There has been discussion with the Planner regarding the issue of variances in the river district and addressing the issue with the State legislators. Discussion has begun on the issue of commercial ticketed events in residential districts, residential care facilities and solar. Clerk Peterson sent information

regarding a bill in the legislature which allows the State to mandate certain zoning regulations in cities. Much of the bill has changed, however there are still issues that may affect the City. He would like to see an official letter from the City sent to the local legislators. Anderson believes the bill is stalled and will not go anywhere this year.

Public Safety – Chief Mills stated the lettering is done on the new truck. Unfortunately, the buyer for the 1994 pumper has gone silent and therefore the Chief is pursuing another interested party. The department is looking to purchase a new thermal imager. There may be a few hand-held radios that will also need replacing. The generator needed repairs again after the last power outage. There were 11 calls last month, 3 fire and 8 rescue. The appreciation dinner was cancelled due to lack of attendees. There are three members of the department will be attending an active shooter training through Washington County.

Nyenhuis is requesting a written public safety report submitted ahead of the meeting and noted there was not a 2023 annual report submitted and would like to see something for the May meeting.

Anderson noted that Washington County has come out with a crime mapping tool for resident.

He would also like to suggest placing temporary no parking signs along both sides of Oak Street between Third and Second Streets and along the west side of Second Street between Oak and Elm Streets. The signs would state no parking Friday – Sunday and observed holidays. These would be in place from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Anderson will prepare a map for the May meeting and will be requesting official approval. Anderson is also working on a vendor permit for City parks to address events like a farmer's market.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. The 2025 street improvement project survey work is complete. The State is considering increasing the small cities funding beginning in 2025 and could allow for significant funding in the future.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – North Meadow Update – Ward reported there was an amendment required on the grant to reallocate the funding to only the City owned parcel. The RFQ was sent out and three contractors have submitted proposals. The proposals are significantly higher than what the amended grant will allow, however the group is confident that they can work with the contractor to get it down to where it needs to be.

Ward moved and Anderson seconded to approve Minnesota Native Landscapes as the contractor for the North Meadow grant contract. All in favor, motion passed.

Cecily Harris, resident, has been attending meetings on the County Glacial Hills regional trail proposal and is concerned that she has not seen City representation. Clerk Peterson and Council members Ward and Anderson have all attended meetings and are engaged in the process.

Cemetery – Nyenhuis reported blocks 24 and 25 of Subdivision A have been scanned in order to verify which plots are vacant. City records show burials in Block 24, Lot 1 and a portion of Lots 2 and 3. There are inconclusive results for Block 25, Lots 1,2,7 and 8 and Nyenhuis would like to

have those re-scanned. In the meantime, he is suggesting the City officially declare Block 24, Lots 5-8 and Block 25, Lots 3-6 and 9-10 as available to the public to purchase.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to declare Block 24, Lots 5-8 and Block 25, Lots 3-6, and 9-10 as vacant and available for purchase by the public at the current rate as stated in the approved 2024 fee schedule. All in favor, motion passed.

Water/Wastewater Systems – Pardun noted the drain field report is included in the packet. There are some repairs that will need to happen and he would like to schedule a workshop to further discuss.

City Properties – Pardun reported the floor of the balcony on the front of the Village Hall has rotted out and is leaking. Three bids were received for the repairs, which ranged from \$3700 - \$7600. Bruette roofing came in at \$3700 and Pardun is proposing the Council approve that bid.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to authorize Bruett roofing replace the Village Hall balcony roof in the amount of \$3700. All in favor, motion passed.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – No March meeting.

Forest Advisory –No report.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – No report.

Mill Site Committee – The group has met and is putting together a proposal for Council review that will be presented in May.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 3/14/24, Treasurer's Report of 3/24, List of Bills for 4/11/24, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Relief Association donation in the amount of \$10,000. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business –

History QR Code Project Proposal – Nyenhuis presented a request by the Stillwater Area Community Foundation for a project called “Summer 2024 Stillwater Area History Spots”. This project would allow for QR Code stickers to be placed in various locations around town that could be scanned in order to get the history of that particular location. Matt Thueson was in attendance to further describe the project. There is no cost to the City and will be paid for entirely through a grant from the Stillwater Area Community Foundation. The locations selected would be the front of the Village Hall, the sidewalk by the Mill Site, the Marine General Store, the Lumberyard building and the sign for the Flower Mill. Each location would have a window cling decal to scan. The Council was in favor of this project the consensus was to move forward.

280 Cherry Street Proposal Update – Clerk Peterson reported that a new proposal was received by the Minichs, however they were advised that additional information was needed in order to further evaluate the proposal, nor did it correct the overage in impervious surface. The Minich's were also advised that this does not delay or negate the original timeline given to bring the property into compliance. Currently the issue is being handled through the attorneys for both parties.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None.

Adjournment –*Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:21pm. All in favor motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk