

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

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

Citizens: Larry Roden, Gwen Roden, Scott Spisak, Ross Higgins, Glen Mills, Jody Nyenhuis, Mary Fernstrum, Julie Warren, Curt Moe, City Attorney Dave Snyder. Remote: Anne Minich, Dorothy Deetz, John Goodfellow, Lynn Bjorkman, Marine Community Library, Mary Whitaker, Matt Anderson (Country Messenger), Kitsi Vadheim, Annie Moore, Daniel Christians, Molly Arnason, Jeff Comins, Mary Cullen.

Approval of the Agenda – *Miller moved and Anderson seconded to accept the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations – None.

Planning Commission – October Meeting Update: Chair Spisak reported that the Commission is finalizing draft cannabis regulations with help from the City’s planner. In addition, the Metropolitan Council in October approved the City’s proposed amendments to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, strengthening protections for historic buildings in the Riverway and correcting a segment of the Future Land Use Map. The Commission set three public hearings for November 26: Two variance requests for a proposed home on Tanglewood Lane, a conditional use permit request on Jackson Trail, and draft cannabis regulations.

Mill Site Proposal Review Report: Chair Spisak reviewed the report’s conclusions, noting that the three potential uses identified for the site, while broad, are generally consistent with the City’s comprehensive plan as well as zoning and land use regulations. Architectural design standards would apply to any future development there. Septic and well placement may be a challenge. The report also introduces the idea of adding an overlay zoning district if Council wishes to limit the potential for future commercial use of the site.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reported that there had been 15 calls since the last Council meeting: 7 fire and 8 rescue/EMR; 6 were in Marine, 8 in May Township, and 1 was a mutual aid call in Scandia. The new thermal images and 4-gas meter are now in service. The department also made an educational visit to the kindergarten class at River Grove. Councilman Anderson noted that authorities had investigated a report of an attempted abduction at William O’Brien State Park and concluded that events had been misinterpreted. There was no unlawful conduct.

Roads – Engineer Isiah Bubany reviewed plans for the 2025 street project. Estimates and specifications are coming together on track to seek approval next month for the initial request for bids. The plans will be presented at an open house November 21. Miller asked that any feedback from the open house be shared at the December meeting.

Regarding Washington County’s draft CIP, Mayor Nyenhuis noted that the City needs to be very clear about whether it supports the Glacial Hills Regional Trail Plan or not. Council requested that

Mr. Bubany draft a letter requesting meaningful involvement in planning. Anderson suggesting involving elected representatives if needed. Miller noted that May Township is in a similar position, and he doesn't want Marine's support, if given, to be perceived as pressuring May.

Red Bridge monitoring is on schedule for January 2025. Information gathered during monitoring will be used to inform a maintenance plan.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec. – No report.

Cemetery – Ward reported that she and John Goodfellow have been working with the Washington Conservation District and are now ready to inventory the cemetery trees. After the cemetery, the WCD's tool can be used to inventory trees on other City properties.

Water/Wastewater – Pardun reported that Midwest Sewer Services agreed to extend its quote for work at the drain field into 2025. Because Phase 2 is a mirror image of Phase 1, Bolton & Menk can simply flip the plans. This save costs on completing the drain field updates. With continued maintenance from Public Works, the drain field should last another 20-40 years.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to have Midwest Sewer Services remove and replace five manhole structures and control valves at the east half of community drain field. Project to match work completed in the fall of 2024 and the specifications and scope of work outlined in the 2024 Drainfield Control Structure Replacement Project change order one (fiberglass structures) prepared by Bolton & Menk on 7/11/2024. Work to be completed in the spring of 2025 for a total of \$82,250. All in favor; passed unanimously.*

City Properties –Pardun reported that the November 7 open house for the Village Hall remodel plans went well. People were excited about adding an ADA bathroom and updates to the current bathrooms. People were generally supportive of changes that would improve emergency egress and safety for staff. Several attendees expressed concern that the timeline would interfere with Documentary Nights. Pardun is willing to delay the start of construction to late February to accommodate the Film Society's schedule. Regarding funding, initial cost projections for the remodel are \$260,000. In addition to the \$171,000 the City has earmarked for the project, Pardun previously proposed using funds the City saved for projects now considered obsolete. To save roughly 50%, the City could delay updates to the existing bathrooms. He proposed advertising for bids with a deadline of December 4, which Council could review December 12.

Ward noted that a conditions assessment for the building's structural integrity is needed, followed by repairs. Pardun agreed that an assessment is due, but he would like to do the remodel then continue to save for future repairs. Nyenhuis requested a letter of support from Restoration Society or to hear from them collectively. He added that Council has not agreed on using reserve funds and said the building's exterior needs attention. Anderson believes the City can move this project forward and continue to save for the building's exterior. He noted that taking care of staff and city properties had been passions of Pardun's during his tenure on Council, and that the project had been talked about for nearly a decade. Miller noted that seeing bids would clarify costs. Loralee

DiLorenzo, Restoration Society treasurer, added that the Society was in favor of the plan in concept, but had not discussed budget yet. Pardun will meet with Restoration Society before the December meeting to clarify their support and funding capability. The City is not obligated to accept a bid if it doesn't have sufficient funds.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to seek bids from qualified contractors for the Village Hall remodel project, following LHB's drawings including architecture, interior design, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and structural engineering. The Project consists of remodeling approximately 1,400 square feet of an existing historical building to create a safe and inclusive work environment that meets the City's needs. This includes renovating the first-floor space to provide private offices, reception space, a small meeting space, and modifications to the public restrooms and kitchenette, allowing for an accessible restroom. Motion passed unanimously.*

Community Events – Gwen Roden reported that the Enchanting Forest trees are ready to decorate. Santa and festivities are planned for Nov. 30 10am-1pm.

EDA – No report.

Forest Advisory – Ward and the Forest Advisory Committee applied for a no obligation grant from the DNR to inventory species and health of trees in the Lost 40. On Nov. 8, she received word that their application was accepted. There will be no fiscal or administrative impacts to the City.

Mill Site Committee – Based on the Planning Commission recommendation, Council came to a consensus to reengage the Minnesota Historical Society to acquire the Mill Site Property. The committee will continue to engage the community to determine the best use of the property.

Multi-Generational Education – Miller reported that the committee planned to reduce its budget ask by half – to \$15,000 – by doing their own public engagement, which will start in early 2025.

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Minutes of 10/10/24, 11/13/24, Treasurer's Report of 10/24, List of Bills for 11/14/24, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes (none). All in favor, motion passed.*

### Old/New Business

Approve Comprehensive Settlement Agreement Relating to Brookside Bar & Grill – Ward read a joint statement from the City and Brookside explaining that they had come to an agreement resolving the liquor license appeal, the conveyance of the pumper house garage, and timing for construction of a dumpster enclosure. Ward and Brookside's Ross Higgins will meet informally at least quarterly to build a trusting, professional relationship and work together to solve any issues.

*Ward moved and Pardun seconded to accept the settlement agreement between the Brookside and Marine on St. Croix, and to approve the Brookside's 2025 liquor license. In discussion, Mr. Higgins thanked the Council for working toward the agreement, thanked the community for their support, and said the Brookside team looked forward to turning over a new leaf. City Attorney Dave Snyder noted the efforts and success of attorney Mary Cullen, who helped the two sides reach*

*an agreement. Motion approved unanimously.*

Citizen of the Year Nominations – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to change the nomination criteria guidelines to read, “compiled and presented at the last Council meeting of the year.” Approved unanimously.*

Truth in Taxation Reminder – Nyenhuis noted TNT was set for 6pm, Dec. 3, in the Village Hall.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – Nyenhuis noted “Godspeed to our clerk in her recovery.”

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

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk