

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Year 2024 Proposed Budget – Truth In Taxation

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Nyenhuis.

Lon Pardun, Wendy Ward, Charlie Anderson (through 6:48pm) and Bill Miller Present.

Citizens Present: Glen Mills, Mary Whitaker, John Goodfellow, Kitsi Vadheim, Mary Fernstrum, Brian Jemelka, Julie Warren. Remote: Jim Maher, Kristina Smitten, Curt Moe, Gwen Roden.

Mayor Nyenhuis opened the meeting at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2025 budget. He reviewed each page of the budget, noting that Fiscal Disparity funds will be used toward the Planning line item. Miller asked whether spending for the grant projects in Jackson Meadow Hollow and North Meadow was on track. Ward will research and report to Council.

Pardun proposed lowering the following funds under Replace/Capital: GEN-Stormwater from \$4,200 to \$0, as there has been no spending from the fund in the last two years; RDS – Dump Truck from \$15,000 to \$10,000; and RDS – One Ton Pickup from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Pardun noted that Council will need to increase savings for the trucks incrementally in future years. Anderson voiced the belief that this is a responsible budget, and further cuts are not realistic.

Council discussed funding for the proposed Village Hall remodel. The Marine Restoration Society has announced a commitment of \$60,000 toward the project. Bids will be opened Dec. 4. Nyenhuis requested an outline of proposed funding and costs for the upcoming Council meeting.

Kitsi Vadheim asked for clarification on the Forest Advisory Committee and tree maintenance budgets. Ward proposed using tree maintenance funds for emerald ash borer treatment, leaving FAC to decide how to use the \$3,000 committee budget.

Mary Fernstrum asked about funding for the Village Hall remodel, and how residents can see the City's savings. The balances for reserve funds are not listed in the annual budget, but residents can track them via the Treasurer's Report posted monthly in the Council packet. Fernstrum also asked whether Restoration Society had the \$60,000 already or if they would be raising funds. Nyenhuis said they have the funds but will be making a fundraising appeal as well.

Brian Jemelka asked what would happen if the City didn't have enough for the remodel. Pardun explained that they could deduct the bathroom renovations if needed. Mr. Jemelka also commented that the dump truck doesn't get many miles, and the City won't need to replace it for more than 18 years. Nyenhuis explained that the City may want the option to trade it in.

The Council had no additional changes to the proposed budget and will set the final levy of \$1,126,971.24 which represents a 7.6% increase over 2024, at the December 12th City Council meeting.

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to adjourn at 6:58pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Lindgren Dammann, Assistant City Clerk.
Year 2025 Budget Attached.