

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 10, 2025

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Isiah Bubany, Gwen/Larry Roden, Kelly Jeanetta, Dave Snyder, Kristina Smitten, Nels Peterson, Dorothy Deetz, Matt Anderson, Curt Moe, Cecily Harris, Julie Warren, Kitzie Vadheim, Lynn Bjorkman, Andrea Rehm, Conner Schaefer, David Snyder.

Approval of the Agenda – Nyenhuis will move the Glacial Hills trail to the beginning of Council reports. *Nyenhuis moved and Willenbring seconded to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations –

Marla – Lynn Bjorkman was in attendance on behalf of the Marine Library Association. The library has changed their logo to now recognize the indigenous community and vibrant tree population. Jeff Black will be building custom shelving to help expand the children’s section in cooperation with the Marine Village School, as the school does not have its own library.

Planning Commission - Kristina Smitten reviewed the June meeting. There was a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit for a bathroom in an accessory building at 300 Nason Hill Rd. The Commission is recommending approval.

Miller moved and Ward seconded to approve Planning Case 20250624-01 for a bathroom in an accessory building at 300 Nason Hill Rd. All in favor, motion passed.

Glacial Hills Trail - Ward reported that she and Council member Goodfellow met with Connor Schaefer and Andrea Rehm of Washington County, along with Washington County Commissioner Miron to discuss the details of the proposed Glacial Hills Trail. Goodfellow submitted a written summary of the meeting, which was included in the packet. Washington County is requesting a letter of support from Marine. Concerns that were brought up in the meeting was the proposed trail head in downtown Marine. These concerns include the crossing of Highway 95, financial concerns and parking concerns. In addition, the preferred route is along the Canadian National railroad and the secondary route is along County Rd 4. Should the County Rd 4 route be selected, there would be up to 30 feet of area that would be cleared of all trees which Goodfellow believes is very concerning. Miller noted the construction period for this trail is far into the future. He also stated that the railroad does not give property away for free and that option could be a substantial cost. Willenbring questioned the request at the table. Ward stated the request on the table is the letter of support from the City stating they agree with the conceptual design presented which would open the door to potential grant funding. Goodfellow noted the conceptual designs are not locked in. Nyenhuis stated the letter of support is the item on the table, and would like to see an open house to the Marine citizens and attended by the County to give the residents an option to weigh in. Once that feedback from the residents is received, then the Council can discuss if a letter of support is

in order. Miller would also like to see a representative from the State to be in attendance as well. Ward and Goodfellow will take the lead on getting a meeting scheduled.

Public Safety – Chief Mills reviewed the public safety report. There were 11 calls in June. The Streetdance was well attended and the amount raised was approximately \$10,500. The new truck is in service and operational. No bids received yet on the old truck.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineers report. The 2025 street project is complete, however there are a few outstanding punch list items. There is a request for payment number 2 from the contractor in the amount of \$128,569.88. The project came in approximately \$50,000 under budget.

Willenbring moved and Goodfellow seconded to approve contractor payment request #2 to Valley Paving in the amount of \$128,569.88. All in favor, motion passed.

Bolton Menk is requesting the Council authorize the preparation of plans and specifications for the 2026 road project, which will encompass Chestnut and Fifth Street. Miller questioned if the north section of Chestnut was included in the asphalt. Isiah stated it is not, however that can be part of the discussion as we move forward.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the authorization of the 2026 project plans and specs. All in favor, motion passed.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Rec – Hollow Management Plan – Kristina Smitten noted that the first grant project just wrapped up and is here to ask if the City is interested in pursuing the next round of grants, which are due in September, for phase 2 of the Hollow project. She stated she is willing to help again with the grant process if the Council is interested. Nyenhuis is in full support and is excited about the work that has been done. Goodfellow believes if the City does not do the follow through, it will lose the progress that has always occurred. He believes the City needs to look carefully at what can be done to reduce costs, and the City also needs to look at other City properties as well and how to balance those priorities. He also believes that the City has time before making any decisions. Kristina is looking for general support from the City and a ballpark requested dollar amount. She believes the requested amount cannot be less than before because the prevailing wage criteria was challenged last time, and that prevailing wage must be met, the labor costs will increase the overall project cost by approximately 40%. Previously the City had agreed to contribute \$3,000 each year for three years and Ms. Smitten questioned what the City was willing to contribute to this grant request. Nyenhuis noted that the Council will be discussing budget in the upcoming weeks and supports a number around the \$3,000 mark again. Miller noted there is no capital improvement plan on City greenspace and believes the City needs a full assessment of City land assets as other areas will need work outside of the Hollow. Nyenhuis believes the work in the Hollow has been so successful and he believes this will benefit future projects and believes this project needs to move forward. Ward is not in favor of giving a funding number until there is a capital improvement plan for other areas to be identified, however is in favor of moving forward with the grant application process. Nyenhuis believes

there is Council support for a City contribution number around that \$3,000 per year amount. Willenbring questioned if the grant would be partially approved or is it an all or nothing. Smitten stated the DNR funds these projects so it would be an all or nothing. So, the request number will need to have the City's 10% contribution amount taken into consideration and what that budget number will look like. Willenbring would like to request the same grant amount as what was received in phase 1. Goodfellow would like to see more input on the end game prior to making that decision. Miller questioned what would happen if nothing was done for one more year. Goodfellow believes if treatment was skipped one year, it would set back the progress significantly. Goodfellow does not want the City to move forward doing what it has already done. Nyenhuis stated the item on the agenda is the request to move forward with phase 2 and there is a majority consensus from the Council to move forward. Smitten stated this grant request will be written to support the DNR objections. Nyenhuis noted the City is tasked with further discussions on City parklands, which will happen at a later time. Goodfellow is not comfortable with moving forward with phase 2 and is not willing to move forward without making changes. Nyenhuis stated there was a majority consensus to move forward with the grant application and any further discussions will happen at a later date. Willenbring noted the City relies on a lot of volunteers and if the City does not acknowledge the time they put in and continues to ask more and more of those volunteers, those volunteers are going to cease to exist.

Watershed – Floodplain Resiliency Plan – Mike Isensee was supposed to be in attendance to give a presentation, however it has been pushed to the August meeting.

Cecily Harris Property Acquisition Request – Ward and Goodfellow met with Mike Isensee of the Watershed and a representative of Friends of the Mississippi river to discuss a potential acquisition of a section of property currently owned by Cecily Harris. The acquisition would be paid for by grants and therefore no out of pocket costs to the City. This was a discussion that was brought forth to Council in 2018. There were many concerns discussed by Council at that time and ultimately the Council chose not to move forward. There was a question whether there is currently an easement on file with the Aspengrens for the Red Bridge. Administrator Peterson does not believe so but will look into. Goodfellow noted the grant funding request is also one of those projects that could be in competition with the Hollow grant request. Nyenhuis is concerned about the amount of property the City already owns. Willenbring stated this property is an isolated parcel and is concerned about the condition of the dam and potential dredging of the pond. He also believes there is a longer term maintenance question along with the fact that this is an isolated parcel and believes it would make more sense if there was an opportunity to follow the stream down to the lower Mill pond. Ward and Miller both agree with Willenbring's concerns. There was a question of paying for a survey. Willenbring stated that usually the seller will handle those issues and then it becomes part of the purchase agreement if/when it gets to the that point. Nyenhuis would like to gauge the feelings of citizens as to whether they feel there is benefit in the City obtaining this property as well. Ward and Goodfellow will follow up on this issue further.

Cemetery – The newly proposed subdivision has been drafted by Landmark Surveying. There will be resolution presented in August to approve that new subdivision and then City staff will continue to work with the attorney on the plat house keeping items like the street vacations and redesccribing of Broadway Street.

Water/Wastewater Systems – The two structures on the alley of Third Street are installed and paving restoration will occur at a later date.

City Properties –

Red Bridge Update – Goodfellow submitted an updated history of the bridge. The piers have moved and shifted slightly since 1969. The bridge is structurally sound but this should be addressed moving forward. Administrator Peterson is working with Bolton Menk to determine the replacement cost for insurance purposes. Ward is working with Collaborative Designs to get a conditions assessment as well.

Community Events – The Stewards of Marine will be the Marshall for next years July 4th parade. The race had the largest number of registrations in history.

EDA – No report.

Forest Advisory – Goodfellow reported that on July 4th there was a Red Maple that was recently planted downtown as snapped and will be replaced. Nyenhuis questioned if MnDOT will be removing the dead ash in their ROWs. Ward stated they should be however nothing has happened thus far. Ward will follow up.

Mill Site – No report.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – No report

Consent Calendar – *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded the Minutes of 6/12/25, Treasurer's Report of 6/25, List of Bills for 7/10/25, Public Works Maintenance Report, Planning Commission Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business –

Pop Up Dog Park – Nyenhuis has submitted a proposal for a pop-up dog park in Burris Park for a 10-day period in August. The dates would be August 1-10. The City currently has orange fencing, however would like to use some of the recreation funds to purchase mesh fencing. Goodfellow is in favor of the fencing as it can be used for trees after. Miller wanted to make sure there is water available for the dogs and that City staff is not tasked with picking up the dog waste after the fact. If this is successful, then the City could look into creating something more permanent. Nyenhuis questioned is there could be a “yappy hour” if the City can find a caterer. Administrator Peterson stated City code prohibits alcohol in City parks. Nyenhuis will instead look into ice cream.

Miller moved and Nyenhuis seconded to approve the pop-up dog park not to exceed \$800. All in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report - Administrator Peterson is requesting dates that Council members

are not available in August in order to get budget dates set. The Council would also like to set a meeting date to discuss CIP for City assets. Willenbring requested Washington County create a map of all city properties.

Goodfellow questioned where the garbage contract issue stands since the City learned that the City will now be paying for the maintenance shop dumpster to be serviced. Administrator Peterson stated she is moving forward with getting the individual contracts drafted as these need to be signed in the very near future. Nyenhuis stated if there is an actionable item then it must be brought forth in August.

Nyenhuis questioned if the compost site is open during the posted hours. There was one day that the compost site was closed due to weather conditions. It was requested that if the site closes due to weather conditions, that a sign is posted on the gate informing residents.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Ward seconded to adjourn at 8:37pm.
All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Administrator