

## CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Kitsie Vadheim, Jim Maher, Isaih Bubany, Tommy Boesel, Matt Anderson, Ross Higgins, Jeremy Chiaca, Katy Kalt, Curt Moe, Rosie Peters, Gayle Knutson, Kelly Jeanetta, Liz Kelly, Julie Wmrnn, Mike Tibbets.

Approval of the Agenda - *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*

*All in favor, motion passed.*

### Citizens Considerations -

Katy Kalt - Ms. Kalt was in attendance to give an update on the grant through Xcel Energy and the MN Wild. The grant application is complete, however part of the grant requires a match from the City. The lighting proposal is for \$18,937 of which the grant would cover \$10,000 of that cost. The proposal would include in the installation of new LED bulbs, underground wiring, Ward questioned is this grant assumes the rink will be there for the next 5-10 years. Ms. Kalt stated the lighting could be relocated if the rink is moved. Ms. Kalt is looking for a commitment from the City to provide a funding match. If the City is not willing to provide matching funds, then Ms. Kalt would change the wording to say that there would need to be fundraising to raise the remaining funds. Nyenhuis questioned if the wording could read that the City, along with local fundraising would make up the difference.

*Goodfellow moved and Miller seconded that the City contribute to the grant if awarded in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. All in favor, motion passed.*

Planning Commission No January meeting.

Public Safety - Chief Mills submitted a written report for Council review. There were 10 calls since last month.

The 2025 annual report was also presented to the Council for review. Ward loved the report and thanked Andy Lapos for a fantastic report. Ward questioned the if the transition to the new reporting system has any budget impacts. Chief Mills stated it does not. Ward also requested that the next report state the number of new members recruited over the past year and how many were lost, and also the investment in each of those members lost. Nyenhuis believes that is extra work on a volunteer and since the training is reimbursed by the State, there is really no impact to the budget. Ward questioned what types of additional incentives could be given to the members in order to retain volunteers. Chief Mills stated that is always the big question. Money does not seem to be a key, but maybe a tax incentive or free utilities. Goodfellow also thanked the Chief for a great report. He questioned if in the future, data could be given on tenure of the members and the

demographic profile of each member. Goodfellow also questioned if the new truck is the primary vehicle that is used on calls. Chief Mills stated that depends on the call, however the new truck also carries the extrication equipment for car accidents as well. Goodfellow was concerned that there may be an issue of burden on certain members and would like information on a future report as to whether there is more of a burden on particular members. Discussion was held on whether that information is valuable to the Council or if that is something the Chief can handle within the department. Nyenhuis also requested the City administrator send a letter to May Township requesting they begin requiring turnarounds with new driveway construction, along with a copy of the report,

*Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to approve the 2025 Annual Fire report. All in favor, motion passed.*

Ward would like the Council to be thinking about the Public Safety report from 2025 whether or not changes should be made in 2026. In regards to the Brookside operations, last summer went fairly well outside of some parking issues. Miller is waiting on incident reports from the Washington County watch commander. There was concern from the Watch commander that employees of the Brookside are doing parking enforcement rather than contacting Washington County directly.

Nyenhuis noted there was nothing included in the Council packet to back up this agenda item and he is concerned that the conversation is going in a direction that the Council and public was not prepared for. Goodfellow stated he brought this up at the January meeting and his concern is that there are items in the public safety plan that have not been addressed or completed. Nyenhuis would like to see this conversation held at a workshop rather than at this meeting with no supporting documentation. Willenbring also noted that he, as a member of the public safety committee, also had no idea what this agenda item was about. After further discussion, Miller suggested this be handled at a Council workshop.

Ross Higgins thanked Council member Ward for her work and communication in helping make the summer run so smoothly. Mr. Higgins stated his staff was hired to welcome patrons and were not hired to enforce parking, however did offer suggestions of finding more suitable parking if they saw a car parked illegally. He also stated that if the Council were to suggest changing the number of music permits issued, then that should happen now in order to prevent overbooking entertainment. Mr. Higgins also appreciates having a dedicated point of contact with Councilmember Ward and would like that to continue.

Miller questioned if there will be any changes to the Brookside in this coming summer. Mr. Higgins stated the plan is to have the same number of bands as there were in 2025 and run things the same way as in 2025. Miller would like to see the main contact be the City Administrator between the City and the Brookside, and if there is a need for a more in depth discussion, then a council member could get involved. Willenbring believes that there is no reason for the City to require any major changes to the upcoming season if last year went well. Goodfellow does not like to see discussions made by default and believes a workshop needs to happen in order to make those decisions. There was further discussion as to whether or not Council member Ward would or should continue to be the liaison. Mr. Higgins would like the opinion of the City Attorney as this arrangement with Council member Ward was part of the settlement agreement.

*Goodfellow moved and Willenbring seconded that this issue be moved to the public safety committee and defer this discussion until the committee is ready.*

*Goodfellow moved to amend his motion to read until the public safety committee calls a workshop. Willenbring seconded. All in favor, motion passed as amended.*

Roads - Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineering report. Requests for quotes were sent out for the 2026 street improvement project. Those results will be presented at the March Council meeting. There will be a CIP meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> with a meeting following with residents to discuss the removal of the gravel road through the school forest.

Personnel - No report.

Parks & Rec - Ward presented a draft letter of support to the National Park Service for their comprehensive river management plan. There were several public workshops in 2025 which were well attended by Marine residents. The letter is supportive of the plan but outlines some concerns as well. Goodfellow noted the letter needs some work still and is looking for additional feedback from Council. Miller would like to see airboats and mud motors addressed further. He would also like the additional user pressure due to the new ramps at William O'Brien and Osceola landings addressed along with the lack of enforcement. Nyenhuis is ready to send the letter as presented and believes this letter should represent the opinion of the City as a whole and its citizens and not just Councilmembers Ward and Goodfellow. All comments should be sent to the City Administrator who will forward to Councilmember Ward and Goodfellow. Mike Tibbets, 940 Broadway St, stated the mission statement for the Park Service is to provide ready access to the public to enjoy these amenities, not restrict them. Ward and Goodfellow will amend the letter and requested all comments be sent no later than February 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Ward moved and Nyenhuis seconded that the Council approve the proposed letter of support to the National park service contingent upon additional comments from the Council and residents. All in favor, motion passed.*

Goodfellow noted that the City was awarded the Hollow grant and there will be a meeting with committee members to discuss details and will present to Council in March for formal approval.

Watershed - Goodfellow noted there will be a survey sent by the Watershed to gauge the satisfaction of the residents. They are also working on clearing out the backlog of permits.

Cemetery - No report

Water/Wastewater Systems - No report.

City Properties - Willenbring questioned where the logging issue stands. Goodfellow stated the City will most likely be on its own in its search for a logging company. Bell Pole had a long

standing relationship with a logging company however there seems to be issues within that relationship and they have severed ties. Goodfellow sent an email to Bell Pole asking if they are still interested in assisting the City, however has not received a response. The City will need to decide how to move forward. Goodfellow believes the City can look for contractors on their own.

Community Events - Nyenhuis will work with Councilmember Ward to come up with an event to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fire Department.

EDA - There was a meeting prior to the Council meeting providing an update on the Marine Village School.

Multi-Generational Education Committee - The committee met with the City Planner and received the proposal and cost to put together the master plan. The cost fell within budget and the Planner was given the go ahead and should have something ready for the committee to review in March.

Willenbring noted the Village school will be applying for a grant that would be used to clean up the school forest.

Forest Advisory - The committee met with the Village School to discuss events for Arbor day on April 24th.

Millstream - There was a meeting to discuss historical and indigenous recognition within the Watersheds plan. There will be walking tour of the site in May. The committee is also working with the Watershed to revisit the dam issue and the possibility of it being lowered slightly. Mike Tibbets spoke with Roger Lindell, who was the last person to have dredged that pond, stated there is 5 ft of water and then bedrock.

Consent Calendar - *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 1/8/26, Treasurer's Report of 1/26, List of Bills for 2/12/26, Public Works Maintenance Report, All City Elevator one year contract. All in favor, motion passed.*

Old/New Business - Board of review meeting will be held April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report - Goodfellow noted he has a list of topics he would like discussed and is requesting a Council workshop in order to address those items. The Council believes that is a very broad topic and would like Goodfellow to send a summary of those issues to the City Administrator to circulate to Council.

Goodfellow noted there is a program through LMC that will help fund professional surveys for the City which he would like to see utilized.

Adjournment - *Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:32pm. All in favor, motion passed.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk