

**CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

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

Citizens: Glen Mills, Ryan Marsel, Larry Roden, Anna Maakestad, Jim Maher, Isaih Bubany, Gayle Knutson, Matt Anderson, Liz Kelly, Suzanne Pollack, Jim Shaver, Nancy Spear, Lynn Bjorkman, Dorothy Deetz, Charlie Anderson, Daniela Carter, Jami Philip, Kitz Vadheim, Janet Johansen, Roger Lyle, Mike Tibbets, Gwen Roden, Molly Arnason, Peter Foster, Leslie McKenzie.

Approval of the Agenda – Goodfellow requested to move the Hollow agenda item up on the agenda and Ward removed the Stewards of Marine from the agenda. Nyenhuis *moved and Miller seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.*

Citizens Considerations –

- Marla Request - Jim Maher stated there is a library program in April and is requesting a food truck to be placed in front of the Village Hall for that event. Nyenhuis believes that is a great idea and they could use the Village Hall reserved signs used for parking.
- Dog Park Request - Liz Kelly, 550 Judd Street, and Suzanne Pollack, 981 Rosabel St, were in attendance to request the City to establish and fund another pop up dog park in Burris Park this year and also to establish and fund a permanent dog park in the City. Ms. Kelly presented reasons in favor of the dog park. She has collected over 80 signatures in favor of the dog park, of which over 30 were Marine residents. She also believes this is a benefit to the many seniors living in the community and will bring in many visitors from outside the community that will benefit the local businesses. She believes the cost of a dog park is minimal in comparison to the benefit of the residents. Suzanne Pollack stated she met many new people at the dog park and believes it is a bonding experience for the community. Willenbring questioned Ms. Kelly's expectation of a "pop up:" dog park. She stated she would be happy to have it as long as it is able. Goodfellow stated this is one of the topics that will be brought forth at the upcoming City Council workshop.  
Ryan Marsel, 280 Judd Street, read a letter opposing the dog park in Burris Park. He is not opposed to the City creating a dog park, however he does not believe Burris Park is the proper location. He is requesting the Planning Commission review the issue as a land use issue. He would also like the Council to consider what the time limit is for a "pop up" event.
- Mike Tibbets – Lost 40 Timber Salvage – Mr. Tibbets stated that Helke Tree Service will be the contractor that will be removing the timber in that area. Mike would be partnering with Helke and the plan is to go in across from the Matsomoto farm and head to the southwest. There are several white pines that would be taken out for his personal use and he would consider selling the wood back to the City if they are interested. Nyenhuis noted this topic will discussed at the upcoming Council workshop. Willenbring questioned how

long Mr. Tibbets believes it would take to remove all of the trees. Mr. Tibbets stated there will be a machine left on site so there will be very few trips in and out and then brought across the street for processing. He believes it may be a weeks worth of work.

- Janet Johansen – Driveway Encroachment agreement – Ms. Johansen, 644 Elm Street, stated her driveway and privacy fence has historically encroached on the school property and Elm Street. She would like to replace the fence that was damaged in last years storm and is requesting the city grant the encroachment agreement.  
*Ward moved and Willenbring seconded to approve the encroachment agreement for Janet Johansen as presented. All in favor, motion passed.*

Parks and Rec – Daniela Carter was in attendance to request the acceptance of the Hollow Grant with the DNR. The DNR has approved the grant request for the Hollow property and Ms. Carter, along with the City Administrator will be the project managers. The amount of the grant is for \$454,099 and will include a portion of the adjacent Mustard Seed Farms, which is also part of the land trust. Nyenhuis questioned if there is an access agreement with the private land owner, and if not believes there should be. The City Administrator will get a draft agreement to Jane Matosmoto.

*Goodfellow moved and Willenbring seconded to approve the DNR grant for the Hollow property. All in favor, motion passed.*

Planning Commission – A written summary was submitted by Co-chair Smitten.

Public Safety – Chief Mills submitted a written report for Council review. There were seven calls over the last month. There will be an open house to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Jami Philip is retiring from the Fire Department after ten years of service. Chief Mills presented Ms. Philip with a commemorative plaque.

Roads – Isiah Bubany reviewed the engineering report. There was a CIP meeting with public works and the Council roads committee liaisons to discuss the options for sections of Jackson Meadow that are in need of repair. The consensus was to move forward with a band aid fix for the time being, and then move the reconstruction project for Jackson Meadow from 2032 to 2030. Nyenhuis requested Isiah take a look at the cemetery road as there are a few major cracks that he would like taken care of. Isiah presented information on the 2026 maintenance project and is requesting approval to move forward with plans and specs for this project.

*Goodfellow moved and Willenbring seconded to authorize Bolten Menk to move forward with plans and specifications for the 2026 maintenance project. All in favor, motion passed.*

Isiah stated there were four bids received for the 2026 Street Improvement project. The recommendation is to award the bid to RE Peterson.

*Willenbring moved and Ward seconded to award RE Peterson the base bid and alternate 1 in the amount of \$159,099.50. All in favor, motion passed.*

School Forest Road - Goodfellow stated there was a listening session with the City Engineer and local residents regarding whether or not to close the road that current connects

Pratt Street to Elm street through the school forest. As part of the 2026 road project, the Watershed is requiring stormwater management. The suggestion was to turn the road back to grass, which would satisfy that watershed requirement. If an alternate management plan is needed, that cost would be approximately \$30,000. Willenbring also noted that with the increase in use of the school forest, including the construction of an outside yurt to be used as a classroom, is an issue that would have brought this issue forth in the near future as well. Peter Foster, 360 Pratt Street, believes that road is needed for public safety. It allows for delivery trucks to get through as there is no room for a vehicle to turn around. He stated that road has been in existence for over 60 years and believes it should remain. He also believes that road is required to effectively provide public safety access in the case of a fire. Mr. Foster is proposing that instead the City install gates at the entrances or remove the bike trail along 5<sup>th</sup> street to satisfy the impervious surface requirement. Nyenhuis stated when there is a heavy snowfall, did the resident request the City plow out that road for access. Mr. Foster stated they did not. Goodfellow questioned if a gate were installed wouldn't that also impede access. Mr. Foster stated the gate could remain unlocked and the residents could open and close the gate when its used. Goodfellow stated there is a plan to rebuild the roads in that neighborhood within the next two years and the issue of public safety can be addressed during those discussions. Nyenhuis noted he believes that road is culturally important, however it is not a platted road. Google maps routes delivery trucks through that area and there is a concern of speed and the fact that the school children use that area. He also noted that there has never been a request for the City to keep that area open during the winter for public safety purposes, and there is a difference of convenience versus public safety. Miller believes this decision should be made on facts and not opinions. Ward questioned the purpose of the request. She has many questions that she would like to see answered prior to making a decision. Miller questioned Chief Mills opinion. Chief Mills noted that road provides a complete circle for public safety vehicles. Ward would like the Chief to provide a summary to Council stating his opinion. Nyenhuis requested the City Engineer review the roads from a public safety standpoint.

*Ward moved and Goodfellow moved to table this issue until the April meeting. All in favor, motion passed.*

Personnel - No report.

Cemetery – No report

Water/Wastewater Systems – No report.

City Properties – Ward requested Willenbring and Miller address the Red Bridge and Museum work for the April meeting.

Community Events – No report.

EDA – Goodfellow noted the school forest grant application will be submitted next week.

Multi-Generational Education Committee – Willenbring noted the school has applied for

a \$300,000 grant from the DNR for the school forest. They are also presenting a request to the Planning Commission to build a yurt in the school forest to be used as a temporary classroom. The cost of the yurt is being donated by a private donor. The master plan is being worked on by the City planner.

Forest Advisory – Goodfellow noted trees have been purchased for Arbor Day and there will be 32 trees in the gravel beds this year. Ward would like to revisit the issue of planting in the City right of ways. Goodfellow will work with the City administrator on verbiage for planting in City right of ways and utility easement.

Mill Stream Committee - No report.

Consent Calendar – Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 2/12/26, Treasurer’s Report of 2/26, List of Bills for 3/12/26, Public Works Maintenance Report, Resolution 031226-01. All in favor, motion passed.

Old/New Business – Board of Review meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – A survey went sent to all residents on behalf of the Planning Commission and encouraged all residents to please fill out and send back. The workshop will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Goodfellow would like to continue to look into the sound system.

Adjournment –*Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:28pm.*  
All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk