

City Council Workshop

Monday, March 23, 2026, 6:00pm

In attendance: Miller (zoom), Willenbring, Goodfellow, Nyenhuis and Ward

Citizens in attendance: Mary Burke, Phil McCouley, Liz Kelly, Ryan and Bre Marsel, Kristina Smitten, Lisa White

Mayor Nyenhuis opened the workshop at 6:00pm for the purpose of reviewing council committees and items of interest. Due to the citizens in attendance, Mayor Nyenhuis suggested moving the dog park agenda item to the top. John Goodfellow requested to add the Millstream as a topic to the agenda as well.

- Dog Park – This issue was discussed at the March Council meeting. There was a temporary dog park last year and there are two different issues – the first being a seasonal dog park and the second being a permanent dog park. Goodfellow believes the Council should engage the community as there are equal amounts of people for and against. Ward agreed with Goodfellow and questioned how to move forward. Willenbring questioned where the funding is coming from. After further discussion, the consensus was to hold a listening session and have the administrator collect information and distribute to Council for the May Council meeting for a decision. Kevin and Wendy will work on this.
- Council Committees – Bill is concerned that there are crossovers with committee assignments and he would like to make sure that there is communication with who is handling what committee. There was discussion about the roles of the EDA vs City properties. Moving forward, all issues will be pushed to the City Administrator and she will determine which entity should handle it. There was also discussion about the CIP worksheet and adding budget line items for those issues.
- City Property/Parks and Rec Role Clarity – Nyenhuis stated the mindset has been that if it's a physical building, it should be properties and if its natural assets then its parks and rec. Bill would like a differential between Council committees and Citizen Committees. There could also be times when two committees would qualify.
- Lost 40 – Goodfellow reviewed the timber in the area and worked with Bell Pole, DNR and other organizations to come up with an amended contract. Since then, Bell Pole no longer has a relationship with the logger they were going to use. Recently, Mike Tibbets (resident) has suggested he along with Helke Tree service go in and do the logging instead. Bill has a concern that a private citizen is presenting a proposal for this project rather than Helke Tree service. It was suggested to have public works see if there are other tree services

interested. Then there also needs to be a bigger conversation as to what the vision for the property is long term. Bill and John will work together on this.

- Hollow Grant – Goodfellow addressed the letter sent by Kristina Smitten requesting Goodfellow and Ward be removed from the Hollow committee due to several reasons. Goodfellow reviewed the history of the committee issues. Discussion was held as to the long-term obligation of the hollow management and how to move forward. Nyenhuis suggested the newest grant be managed by the current volunteers and that Wendy be the sole Council liaison to work with the committee. Wendy is not on board with being on the committee without John due to his expertise. John will be bringing a charter committee request to the April meeting for this issue.
- NPS Management – John requested the City request the Superintendent of the Riverway to attend an upcoming meeting to address the issues the City mentioned in its letter.
- Tree Cutting Along the River – John would like to send a letter to residents reminding of the tree cutting regulations by the City, DNR and NPS. The City Administrator will contact the DNR to see if they would like to co-sign the letter as well.
- City Boat Landings – John submitted photos of the boat mooring landings taken from the river. He would like to consider building canoe racks. The roads committee will take a look at the cost of the racks and bring forth at the budget meeting.
- Central Green Spaces - John believes there should be an instrumental design for the green spaces in town. He would like the Council to develop that sort of thinking for a holistic approach to creating something. The thought was that this would be a Comprehensive Plan item. Dan noted that this is a small community with a limited number of volunteer resources and limited budget.
- Trails Committee – John submitted a charter request to create a trails committee last year and is bringing it forward again. This is an item that Wendy had tried in the past but could not get enough energy behind it to continue it. Wendy suggested including this in the overall plan for green spaces.
- Red Bridge Maintenance – Bill would like to direct the City Administrator to request the City engineer for a maintenance plan. Wendy requested the City consider other entities to create a maintenance plan other than Bolten Menk since they are doing the structural side of it. Kevin believes the Red Bridge should be overseen by City Staff along with either the Restoration Society or other professional entity.
- Financial Reporting – John would like to see a simplified financial report presented to Council on a quarterly basis. Administrator Peterson stated this has been requested several times however without any guidance as to what information he is specifically looking for. The report given as an example is something created from a fund accounting software used by other cities; however, Marine does not use fund accounting. The Personnel committee liaisons will work with staff on this.

- Tree Ordinance – Administrator Peterson brought forth an amendment to the tree ordinance last fall, however only one Council member commented and it never advanced. After many conversations with public works, there is concern about the number of trees that are currently on City owned ROW's and platted/unopened streets that the City has been requested to care for and/or remove which is costing the City thousands of dollars. Administrator Peterson has proposed a few small amendments to the ordinance to address this issue in particular that she will send out to Council for comment. The hope is to have an amendment drafted for action by the May Council meeting.
- Stonehouse Museum Maintenance – Wendy stated that a maintenance list was given to the Council a while back for work to be done on the museum, and she would like City properties to review and move forward with some of the items.
- Downtown Parking – Dan suggested installing grass pavers in Burris Park to help alleviate parking issues. Kevin noted there are areas in other parks downtown that could be considered as well.
- Millstream – John would like to have a civil assessment done on the Millstream dam as the community feedback was to retain the dam as part of the Millstream project. The cost would be \$1,000 to get an idea of what amount of work would need to be done to do this. The consensus of the Council is there are dollars budgeted for this item and the committee should proceed.

Kevin adjourned the meeting via consensus at 8:13pm. All in favor, meeting adjourned.