

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Lammi, Benson and Marker and Myers present.

Citizens Present: Bobby Miller, Win Miller, Dan Willenbring, Gwen Roden, David Denn, Tom Omdahl, Curt Moe, .

Citizens Considerations

Tom Omdahl – Street Vacation Consideration – Mr. Omdahl is interested in purchasing the property at 575 Judd Street. They would like to tear down the current house and re-build with a larger footprint, however the current lot size is less than current code requires, therefore making the lot substandard. With the new laws passed concerning the granting of variances, the likelihood of the City granting a variance for setbacks is slim. Mr. Omdahl is requesting the Council consider vacating Walker Street, which would increase the overall lot size, or just consider the lot conforming without the vacation. There is no formal survey of the property; however Mr. Omdahl would consider paying for a survey if he thought there was a chance to re-build as he is proposing. Mayor Mills advised the Council has a long history of not vacating streets, however suggested he take this issue to the Planning Commission for further consideration.

Curt Moe – Mr. Moe thanked the Public Works Department for all of their help with the Mill Site this past summer. He also reported that the MN Historical Society plans to plant mature trees this spring and continue to work on eliminating unwanted vegetation. The Historical Society is requesting the City consider entering into a maintenance contract which would include projects such as buckthorn eradication, spraying pathways, and mowing. The City would be compensated, and the contract would begin July 1, 2011 and run for a two year period. Jason Crotty was concerned that the buckthorn eradication might be too time consuming for the City, and suggested looking for an outside vendor for that project. The Council seemed to agree with a maintenance contract, however Lammi would like to ensure the compensation is enough to cover any outsourcing of projects.

Planning Commission – Chairman Willenbring was in attendance to update the Council on the November meeting. Cynthia Graham, owner of Merchants Marine, had a pre-application for a possible CUP to have an apartment in her business. T-Mobile continues to work on the re-location of the proposed tower, and the Commission is continuing to review the various Zoning Districts.

Gwen Roden and Dan Willenbring are both up for re-appointment. Willenbring has agreed to remain on the Commission for one additional year and Roden would like to renew her appointment.

Myers moved and Benson seconded to re-appoint Gwen Roden for a three year term and Dan Willenbring for a one year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – A pump was replaced in the North System and everything is running smoothly.

Public Safety – Lammi noted that the annual meeting will be held on December 13th. There was also a small structure fire, which was a result of fireplace ashes being stored in a garbage can. Chief Denn advised the department will be purchases an extrication tool for approximately \$26,000. The funds will be taken from the Departments Dedicated fund.

Robert Miller has joined the Department as a probationary member.

Lammi moved and Myers seconded to approve Robert Miller as a probationary member of the Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads - No Report.

Personnel/Building Inspector – Tommy Boesel has a new addition to his family and is currently out on FMLA leave.

Recreation – The ice rink is in the process of being flooded, and the Jackson Meadow ski trails are groomed.

Finance – The Truth in Taxation meeting was held on December 2nd, and the budget was reduced to \$619364.89, which represents a .49% decrease over the 2010 budget .

Lammi moved and Marker seconded to approve the 2011 budget at \$619364.89. Motion passed unanimously.

Lammi moved and Marker seconded to approve the Proposed 2010 Reserve Funds totaling \$59,500 (attached). Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration – Benson met with Pat Conley and Washington County Commissioner Hegberg to discuss the library issue. Conley confirmed that the Marine Branch is only open due to funding from the Jordan bequest, and that the County is scaling back the four boutique libraries, which includes Marine. The County will continue to keep the Marine library open until the Jordan funding runs out, at which time it will close. However, the County is willing to work with the City on finding ways to keep certain elements of the library open, which could include a kiosk along with some type of reading room staffed by volunteers. The Council will work on suggestions for the County and present the information to residents sometime in February.

Rent Waiver Request – Dan Boardman is requesting the Council waive the rental fee for the 2nd annual Stocking Were Hung concert, which is a fundraiser for Marine Elementary.

Marker moved and Myers seconded to waive the hall rental fee for Dan Boardman. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery – No Report .

Riverway Rules – No Report.

Village Center – Benson will be meeting with the business owners and residents to discuss long range plans for the Village Center. The hope is to hold this meeting sometime in January.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Benson submitted a proposal for a new ERU rate system. Discussion was held regarding uniformity versus usage. The Council agreed there will need to be more discussion/research prior to adopting any changes.

Consent Calendar – *Marker moved and Lammi seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/10/10 and 12/2/10, Treasurer’s Report dated 11/10, the List of Bills for 12/9/10, Zoning Administrator’s Report, Planning Commission Minutes, and the November Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

Liquor License Renewals – *Myers moved and Benson seconded to approve the liquor license renewals for the Brookside Bar and Grill, Olives and The Bikery Du Nord from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – Clerk Peterson advised the Council is required to canvass the election results from the November 2nd General Election. Michael Lammi and Christopher Mowery were elected to the City Council both for a 4 year term, and Mayor Mills has been re-elected for another 2 year term.

Myers moved and Marker seconded to canvass the election results from the November 2, 2010 election declaring Mike Lammi and Chris Mowery elected to the City Council, both serving a 4 year term, and Glen Mills elected as Mayor to serve out the designated 2 year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment – *Lammi moved and Marker seconded to adjourn at 9:11p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk