

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:05pm. Lammi, Myers and Marker present. Benson absent.

Citizens Present: Kate Bourgeron, Tom Warth, Gwen Roden, Jeanne Davis, Andy/Karen Kramer, Page Holmquist, David Denn, Deb Stull Kinsley, Paul Kinsley, Roger Lyle, Jeff Hansen, Adrian Quintan, Larry Whitaker, John Schultz.

Citizens Considerations

Brookside Bar and Grill – Jeff Hansen introduced himself as the future owner of the Brookside. He plans to close on the property June 1st, and is requesting the Brookside receive the available liquor license. The Council advised Mr. Hansen that he must go through the application process first and requested that he present a resume to the Council for review at the June meeting.

John Schultz – St. Croix Fiber Networks – Mr. Schulz stated St. Croix Fiber Networks is a newer company based out of Stillwater, and they are looking to offer voice and high speed internet to the Marine/Scandia/May Township area. Currently the company is applying for a grant through the Federal Stimulus program and has requested that Marine write a letter of support to help with the grant process. Mr. Schultz stated the hope would be to have the project going by spring of 2010. After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was that Marine would definitely support the idea of competitive voice and internet services.

Myers moved Lammi seconded that the City draft a letter in support of the St. Croix Fiber Networks to assist with the grant application. Motion passed unanimously.

July 4th Committee Update – Page Holmquist was in attendance on behalf of the July 4th committee to request approval of the submitted draft budget. The committee is proposing to spend approximately \$5,275 between security, porta potties, clean up and additional no parking signs. The committee is also requesting a dumpster and additional garbage cans. The City Clerk will check with Waste Management if there will be a charge for the additional cans. Those numbers will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Planning Commission – Dan Willenbring reviewed the April meeting. Kathy Harker has requested an amendment to her variance received in 2008 to move the location of an accessory building. The Commission reviewed the request and recommended the approval for the building to be moved 30 feet closer to the street. Willenbring stated that since the change was an insignificant amendment to the original variance, he did not believe a public hearing was required.

Marker moved and Lammi seconded the acceptance of the variance amendment as recommended by the Planning Commission for 1011 Nason Hill Rd. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow Public Improvements – The North system continues to have pump issues and is currently running on one pump. NAWE will be installing check valves on the pumps, however there is some concern about potential freezing in the winter.

Association Letter – A letter was received from the Homeowners Association supporting the installation of a security camera at the entrance of Jackson Meadow. The Council has been discussing new cameras for the cemetery, maintenance shop and Jackson Meadow, however has since decided that a camera would not be necessary at the maintenance building. Sentry Systems submitted a quote for approximately \$2000, which includes the equipment and installation. Discussion followed regarding the amount of hardware needed to service both the cemetery and Jackson Meadow.

Lammi moved and Myers seconded to authorize the purchase of two camera systems with one monitor, not to exceed \$5,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety – Chief Denn advised the Department will be on standby on Saturday, May 23rd for the Stillwater Marathon. Also, all sirens in town are fully functional. There were a few issues between the County and installer regarding the mounting of an antenna, however everything is working fine.

Roads–

MNDOT Update – Lammi reported that he has attended several meetings and the current plan is to finish the final specs and go out for bid by mid-June. The hope is to begin the project early to mid August. The open cut project north of County Rd 7 will take approximately two weeks, and MnDOT will be detouring traffic from Hwy 96 to Manning while that section is closed. As part of the open cut project, the City will be working with the homeowners who currently rely on springboxes as their main source of water. Those boxes will have to be temporarily disconnected during that two week timeline, and the homeowners will be responsible for the reconnection of the lines. Lammi also noted that the homeowners in Butternut Falls have decided not to proceed with the turn lane due to the cost of the project. In addition, the crosswalk by the Asa Parker house will not be re-stripped and the guardrail on the east side of the road will be closed off, along with a portion of the stairs on the west side removed. Myers stated he would like to meet with MnDOT representatives to discuss leaving the guardrail open as many residents still like to use that trail.

Proposed Right of Way Ordinance – Jason Crotty submitted comments and suggestions for the proposed ordinance, which the City Clerk will incorporate into the draft and present at the June meeting.

Personnel/Building Inspector – The Council reviewed the Public Works maintenance report.

Recreation – A request has been made by a gentleman named Ken Wanovich requesting to provide entertainment at the gazebo on July 3rd prior to the fireworks. It was not clear whether or not the music would be amplified however, so the City Clerk will look into and report back at the June meeting.

Mayor Mills called for a brief recess at 8:25pm and called the meeting back to order at 8:30pm.

Proposed Horse Ordinance -Myers reviewed the issue of people riding their horses on City trails when the ground is too soft and damaging the trails. The Council reviewed a draft ordinance requiring designated horse trails and allowing the City to determine when the trails would be open depending on the trail condition. Discussion was held regarding the fact that the City does not have a general trail ordinance and maybe that should happen prior to regulating specific trail uses. Myers and Marker will review the City Code and draft a general trail use ordinance.

Walker St. Boat Access – Myers met with the Hokes regarding the trail accessing the river on Walker St. Currently the traveled path used to access the river veers off of the City street and crosses their property. The Hokes were very open to the suggestion of an encroachment agreement with the City. Myers will have our Attorney draft those documents. The City is also reviewing the access along Wilke Street by the Pabst property.

Finance – The audit should be complete by the June meeting.

Hall/Restoration – The Restoration Society has had two visionary meetings which have gone very well. Continuing to work on the bench project in the Mill Site park.

Cemetery – Marker spoke to the Getchell's regarding the fence on the border of their property and the cemetery. They are currently in the process of removing that old fence and replacing it.

Riverway Rules – No Report.

Village Center – Library Update – Lammi and Benson met with Pat Conley to discuss the future possibilities for the library such as co-location or a kiosk option. Lammi found a video showing a community currently using the kiosk option, which the Clerk will post on the City website. The City of Hugo is also installing a kiosk at their City hall. If the City is still interested in the co-location option, then a detailed plan will need to be presented to the library board.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Jason Crotty reported there have been a couple of power issues with the lift stations, however they have been resolved.

Consent Calendar – *Lammi moved and Marker seconded to approve the Minutes of 4/9//09, Treasurer's Report dated 4/09, the List of Bills for 5/14/09, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes, and the April Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – Lammi presented a proposed City Committee Process Resolution, which would allow for a formal process when creating citizen committees working on behalf of the City. Mayor Mills suggested the Council review the proposal and add it to the June agenda for action.

Hall Waiver Request – A request was received by resident Anna Maakestad to waive the rental fee for a brief singing performance by her art students as part of a community art show on Sunday, May 31st.

Myers moved and Lammi seconded to waive the rental fee for Anna Maakestad. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Mayor Mills reported that the owners of the Asa Parker house questioned the possibility of expanding their services to include wedding ceremonies as sort of a replacement for the Albertson Farm, which no longer offers that service. There were concerns that because the Asa Parker house is located in a residential district, the potential for large groups of people could become a major concern.

Brent Reibel – Lammi reported that a court date has been set for the issues involving Mr. Reibel and that any/all communications should go through the attorney.

Visser Scraper – A check in the amount of \$4250 has been received from Visser Scraper for the Pine Cone Trail project and that issue is now closed.

Adjournment – *Marker moved and Lammi seconded to adjourn at 9:20p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk