

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, August 13, 2009

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

Citizens Present: Kate Bourgeron, Andy and Karen Kramer, Dale Stull, Roger Lyle, Deb and Paul Kinsley, Page Holmquist, David Denn, Jason Crotty.

Citizens Considerations – Pine Thinning Request – A proposal was received from Coen Brothers to thin the pine trees in the 40 acres behind the maintenance shop. A rough estimate as to what Coen Brothers would pay is between \$7000 and \$8000. If the City wanted a more accurate estimate, the City would have that cost subtracted from the bottom line profit, as Coen Brothers would have to hire someone to come in and mark the trees to get an accurate count. Art Wiederstrom, DNR Forrester, was in attendance and believes Marine has one of the nicest pine stands in the metro area. He stated the DNR would also be willing to mark the stand to get an accurate count, however they would charge 13% of the total sale as their fee. The Council discussed whether the City should go out for bid or just consider the proposal from Coen Brothers. The project wouldn't begin until around the March timeline, therefore the Council has time to discuss its options at a later date.

Dorothy Mattson – Mrs. Mattson was in attendance along with her attorney, Joseph Paiement, to request the City allow Mrs. Mattson's vacant lot in Butternut Falls to be connected to the City septic system. Mrs. Mattson and her late husband purchased that property in 1975 and proposed to the City at that time that a septic system designed by the University of Minnesota be allowed on that property. The City told her that time that she could not install a septic system on that property until a plan was put together for a City wide sewer system. Mayor Mills explained that when the system was installed in the mid 1980's, the property owners were given an option to either pay to connect to the system at that time or purchase a stub for connection at a later date. Currently the system is at capacity per our permit from the MPCA, and the City's policy for at least 10 years or more has been not to allow any new connections to the system. The City has discussed possibly expanding the drainfield sometime in the future, however financing has been a roadblock in firming up those plans. Mrs. Mattson has a letter from Washington County stating that property will not perc for a standalone system, and she is concerned that she is paying taxes on property that has no value. Discussion was also held regarding that property potentially being an unbuildable lot, as it doesn't meet the minimum lot size requirement or setbacks, however a survey would be required to verify. Marker questioned whether that issue should be dealt with prior to requesting a sewer connection. Mr. Paiement advised they wanted to pursue the septic question to determine whether it would be worth the time of pursuing those other variances. A suggestion was made that Mrs. Mattson contact Peter Ganzel of Washington County to see if a holding tank on the property would be allowed in lieu of a septic system.

Request for Tree Removal – Roberta Miller, Judd St. resident, stated there are approximately 14 trees that have died in the alley behind her house, extending from 460 Judd St. to 400 Judd St.

These trees have died due to the rising water in the marsh area, and she is requesting the City remove these trees to prevent potential property damage should they fall. Jason Crotty visited the site along with Helke Tree Service, and believes only 4 of those trees would potentially cause damage. The City will wait for the estimate from Helke's and proceed to remove just those trees that would cause the damage.

Judd St. Speed Letter – Win Miller, Marine resident, submitted a letter concerning the traffic speeds along Judd Street. Mr. Miller is requesting the City utilize the speed trailer, request additional patrols from Washington County and replace the Watch Children sign on the south side of Judd. Roberta Miller, Judd St. resident, is concerned that the upcoming MnDOT project will increase the traffic and speeds along Judd St and suggested the City paint a sidewalk along the west side of Judd for pedestrians. Members of the Council along with residents from the audience voiced concerns about a painted sidewalk. The Council advised the City will place the speed trailer along Judd and speak to the County regarding additional patrols. Jason Crotty believes the Watch Children sign is still there, however may need the surrounding branches trimmed to make the sign more visible.

Planning Commission – Dick Johnson, owner of the Lumberyard Shops, was scheduled to be on the July agenda to apply for a Conditional Use Permit however failed to show. Mr. Johnson is currently renting space for residential purposes without a CUP. The City sent Mr. Johnson a certified letter advising the need to obtain a CUP to avoid further action by the City. The City will send Mr. Johnson one last letter advising that if a written statement is not received within 15 days outlining his plan of action then the City will forward this issue to the City Attorney for further action.

Marker moved and Myers seconded that the City draft another letter to Dick Johnson regarding a need for a Conditional Use Permit at 11 Judd Street and that a 15 day time period be given to submit a plan of action. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow Public Improvements – The water system has been operating fine. Both pumps have been replaced in the north and south septic systems. Discussion has taken place from the Homeowners Association regarding the potential of requesting the City take over the septic system within the next year and a half. Jason Crotty stated he is concerned that the system is not operating as is should be.

Public Safety – No Report.

Roads– MnDOT will be holding their preconstruction meeting for the resurfacing project at the end of August. That date should be set sometime next week. The September 8th start time is still in effect. Myers suggested discussing the Judd Street concerns at the meeting as well.

Personnel/Building Inspector – No Report.

Recreation – The trails committee met with approximately 10 people in attendance. They will continue to review the proposed trails ordinance and solicit citizen input and hope to present the completed draft at the September meeting.

Finance – Clerk Peterson requested dates for the upcoming budget meetings and also requested any wish list items be submitted within the week. The Council scheduled the budget meetings for Thursday, August 27th at 6:00pm, Thursday, September 10th at 6:00pm prior to the Council meeting and Monday, September 14th at 6:00pm if needed. The proposed levy must be certified to the County by September 15th.

Hall/Restoration – The Village Hall roof project is ongoing and is scheduled to be complete by September 4th.

The next Restoration Society meeting will be by September 1st at 7:00pm.

Cemetery – Marker is still looking into the possible Joan Grant land acquisition.

Riverway Rules – No Report.

Village Center – Marker has completed the donor names on the Red Bridge.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Jason Crotty stated he is in the process of re-applying for the drainfield permit through the MPCA.

Consent Calendar – *Marker moved and Myers seconded to approve the Minutes of 7/9/09 and 7/30/09, Treasurer's Report dated 7/09, the List of Bills for 8/13/09, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes, and the July Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – Clerk Peterson checked with the City Attorney as to whether the City should amend its liquor ordinance to address the tables outside of the Brookside and liquor on City property during special events. The Attorney's suggestion was to try a verbal agreement with the business owner prior to amending the code.

Andy Powell – JM Request – Andy Powell, Jackson Meadow resident, requested permission to hold a cyclocross race in Jackson Meadow. The race would take place October 24th and would use part of Jackson Trail and the south walking trail by the railroad tracks as the course. This would be a community event that would bring in approximately 200 people and it was suggested that part of the proceeds go towards trail maintenance. The event would take approximately 4 to 5 hours, in which time a portion of Jackson Trail would be closed. The JM Board has given its approval and if the City Council approves then the issue will be brought up to the residents of

JM. The consensus of the Council was that it was a great idea. Mayor Mills suggested coordinating with the Public Safety Department to make sure they have extra people available during those hours.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Matt Woodruff is no longer with TKDA and Ryan Stempki has been assigned as the new City Engineer.

Washington County Comprehensive Plan – The County's Comprehensive Plan is online for review and any comments need to be submitted by September 30th.

Adjournment – *Marker moved and Myers seconded to adjourn at 8:31p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk