

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 11, 2009

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

Citizens Present: Kate Bourgeron, Tom Warth, Gwen Roden, Jeanne Davis, Andy/Karen Kramer, Page Holmquist, David Denn, Deb Stull Kinsley, Charlotte and Bob Gavin, Gregg Brookbank, Jeff Hansen, Dale Stull, Mary Vogel, Nancy Cosgriff, Wendy Adams, Greg Johnson, Dan Froiland, Shannon Quinn, Peter and Mary Fernstrum, Megan Kavanagh, Judy Kavanagh, Carol Ingersoll, Larry Whitaker, Paul Kinsley, Pat Pardun, Christa Getchell, Charles Arnason.

Citizens Considerations

Brookside Bar and Grill – Jeff Hansen, new owner of the Brookside, was in attendance to submit his resume and request approval for the three available liquor licenses. Mr. Hanson reported that they have completed the tear out of the inside and are hoping to officially open on Monday. Clerk Peterson advised the applications were sent to Washington County, and the background check was passed and applicable signatures received.

Lammi moved and Benson seconded to grant Mr. Hanson the Sunday Off-Sale and combination On-Sale/Off-Sale licenses for Hanson's Brookside Bar. Motion passed unanimously.

Scandia-Marine Lions – Cliff Guggisberg was in attendance to request the Scandia-Marine Lions be granted permission to sell pull tabs at the Brookside. A representative from Edward Jones will be monitoring the cash flow daily, and all proceeds will be put back into the community.

Marker moved Myers seconded to forward a letter to the gambling review board for the Scandia-Marine Lions to run pull tabs out of the Brookside Bar and Grill. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Arnason – Mr. Arnason was in attendance to request a reduction in the number of ERU's charged to the Schoolhouse Apartments. Currently is being billed for six ERU's, one for each unit in the apartment, and would like the number reduced to three. The Council reviewed a letter from 2005 with a similar request, along with the corresponding Minutes. At that time, the City monitored the flow amounts and then used that average to compare the usage with several other residents within the City. The outcome was that the usage for each apartment was very similar to the usage for a single household with one occupant, and therefore the Council decided not to adjust the number of ERU's. Benson questioned the formula used to assign the ERU's, as that number varies for several of the commercial properties. Marker stated he would like to ensure that the billing is fair across the board. Benson will follow up on this issue.

July 4th Committee Update – Larry Whitaker presented a status report. The committee is still looking for people to help volunteer. The porta potties, trash cans and additional no parking signs have all been ordered. Roberta Miller questioned if the bell in the Village Hall could be rung at the end of the fireworks display. Benson thanked the committee for their hard work.

Planning Commission – Chairman Willenbring was not in attendance. There will be no June meeting, as the member of the Commission will be attending a St. Croix Workshop on June 17th.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow Public Improvements – The cameras have been ordered.

Public Safety – The Streetdance is coming up on June 20th.

Roads–

MNDOT Update – Lammi reviewed the Hwy 95 resurfacing project timeline. The Marine portion of the project will not begin until around September 8th. Discussion was held regarding the detour and potential truck traffic on Judd for commercial deliveries. Lammi noted that the trucks will have the option of using County Rd 4 to Guslander, and suggested the City talk to May Township to make them aware of the potential increase of traffic. As for the crosswalk issue, MnDOT has stated they will not repaint the stripes and will also be taking out the steps and close the guardrail. Lammi stated he has been in several meetings with the MnDOT reps their goal is to limit access to Hwy 95 and is firm on not changing their minds. Many residents have voiced their concern about losing this crosswalk and a letter was received from Restoration Society opposing the crosswalk closing and requesting support from the City Council to keep the crosswalk open and reduce the speeds through town. Mary Vogel, resident, spoke with Adam Josephson of MnDOT who indicated they may be willing to consider another option if the City would be willing to install a pedestrian light system. Lammi believes this crosswalk is also a public safety issue, and that the crosswalk should go away, however that the Council should vote on a resolution to either support the crosswalk or not support the crosswalk. Many residents spoke in favor of keeping the crosswalk as it is a safer alternative than walking along the highway and its historically a way to connect Marine. Marker would only be in support of keeping the crosswalk if it were a full operating crosswalk from a public safety standpoint. The Council agreed to vote on a resolution supporting the north crosswalk per its current standards, and encouraged the residents to send their letters of support directly to MnDOT. Lammi also noted that he is attempting to contact someone at MnDOT to discuss a potential speed study for Highway 95. Dale Stull, Butternut Falls resident, thanked Lammi for his work pursuing the turn lane issue.

Myers moved and Benson seconded that the Marine City Council support the maintaining of the north crosswalk per the current standards i.e. striping, signage, stairs and guardrail, and recommends that the City of Marine, City Council Roads Committee and Restoration Society approach MnDOT to request that they keep that crosswalk open. Benson, Marker and Myers in favor, Lammi against. Motion passed.

Proposed Right of Way Ordinance – Clerk Peterson stated after reviewing the ordinance, there were no changes to the draft from last month. Once the ordinance is adopted, Peterson will work with Jason Crotty on creating the corresponding permit applications.

Lammi moved and Marker seconded that the City adopt Ordinance 136, enacting a new chapter 28 of the City Code to administer and regulate the public rights of way in the public interest, and to provide for the issuance and regulation of rights of way permits. Motion passed unanimously.

Lammi moved and Benson seconded that the City publish Ordinance 136 in summary form. Motion passed unanimously.

Certificates of Indebtedness - The City Attorney has drawn up the Certificates of Indebtedness for the newly purchased truck. The certificates will be for \$30,000, which will be issued as \$10,000 per year for three years at 4% interest.

Lammi moved and Benson seconded to approve Resolution 61109-01, awarding the sale of \$30,000 General Obligation Equipment Certificates of Indebtedness of 2009, Fixng the form and specifications thereof; and providing for their payment. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Recreation – Myers reported that the City Attorney has drafted a proposed trails ordinance. This will be distributed to the Council and reviewed at the July meeting. Past City resolutions do discuss non-motorized vehicles, which will be incorporated into the ordinance.

Finance – The audit is complete and there were no issues.

Hall/Restoration – The Restoration Society has a total of four visionary meetings and now have elected their new officers.

Red Bridge – Gwen Roden presented the City with a check in the amount of \$1,900 from the Red Bridge Fundraiser. Marker is also in the process of adding those names to the boards.

Cemetery – The cameras have been ordered. Marker will also be contacting Joan Grant to discuss the possibility of the City purchasing additional land.

Riverway Rules – The City Attorney has drafted encroachment agreements for both the Hokes and Louise Mills in regards to the Walker Street access issue. Myers requested a consensus from the Council whether or not to proceed. The consensus was yes.

Village Center – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Jason Crotty reported C&B Excavating has begun pumping. Also, the City’s wastewater permit will be coming due soon, so that will need to be addressed in the next couple of weeks.

Consent Calendar – Lammi moved and Marker seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/14//09, Treasurer’s Report dated 5/09, the List of Bills for 6/11/09, Zoning Administrator’s Report, Planning Commission Minutes, and the May Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business –

Citizen Committee Resolution – Lammi presented a draft Resolution creating a process for putting together citizen committees. This resolution would be to create a structured committee, which would report to the Council while working on any issues on behalf of the City or Council. Myers questioned page 2, under Size of Committee, which limits the size of the committee to either 3,5 or 7 members. After some discussion, the Council agreed to delete that requirement. Also, on page 2, number 1 under Committee Membership, that sentence was amended to say “Interested citizens will have until one business day prior to the next council meeting to submit their names to the City Clerk”.

Lammi moved and Marker seconded to approve Resolution No. 2009-61109-02, with the corrections of the Section 2 deletion and Section 4 amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

T-Mobile Update – Myers met with a representative from T-Mobile to discuss possible service in Marine. A computer analysis was done for three proposed locations discussed at a previous Council meeting and it was determined that the maintenance shop would be the best location. The proposal would be a 90ft monopole tower. T-Mobil is requesting to do a balloon test to see the potential site impact.

Geo-Thermal Issue – Myers advised of an issue with a remodeling project for Linda Fifield on St. Croix Tr. N. As part of the remodeling, the homeowner is installing a geo-thermal system, which consists of drilling a series of seven holes around the property. During the drilling of the first hole, a fracture in the aquifer was hit, causing significant issues with the wells of several of the surrounding property owners. Myers met with the Department of Health, Ms. Fifield and several of the affected neighbors to discuss the issue. Currently there is no legislation regulating this issue, and the City does not the authority to regulate geo-thermal systems either. The City could however regulate mechanical systems, which would include geo-thermal. Mayor Mills suggested having the Planning Commission study this issue in detail. Marker suggested the City have a clear analysis of as to what authority it does have. The City Attorney is looking into.

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – The City received a thank you card from the 4th grade class for the donation towards the Millsite Bench Project.

Stimulus Grant Money – Chief Denn stated there is grant money available through the Federal Stimulus package and would like permission from the Council to proceed with the grant application to use the money to build a new fire hall. The Council thought it was a great idea and encouraged Chief Denn to proceed.

Adjournment –*Marker moved and Lammi seconded to adjourn at 9:47p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk