

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Myers, Benson(7:05), Lammi and Marker present.

Citizens Present: Kate Bourgeron, Charles Arnason, Jim and Kay Anderson, David Denn, Jim Ziegler.

Citizens Considerations –

Jim/Kay Anderson – Land Division – Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were in attendance to request approval for a simple land division for their properties along Third Street and Oak Street. The Anderson's own both properties and would like to move the property line six feet to the west. Currently the garage to the Oak Street house is sitting over the property line of the Third Street residence. A survey was presented showing the property line adjustment along with the new proposed description.

Lammi moved and Marker seconded to accept the land division for Jim and Kay Anderson as platted per the certified survey by CornerStone Land Surveying dated May 30, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Arnason – Sewer Request – Benson reviewed the request by Mr. Arnason to lower his ERU's for the Schoolhouse Apartments from six to three, and presented a proposal that would lower the ERU's to three and amortize the remaining three across the rest of the users of the sewer system. Benson believes the system for assigning ERU's is working as a whole with the exception of the Schoolhouse Apartments, as they do not fall within the category of residential or commercial. Discussion was held regarding the potential for reviewing and assessing every household based on usage, as many of the Council members had concerns with the amortization portion of the proposal. Mayor Mills also suggested that all the commercial rates should potentially be raised to make up the balance. Both Mayor Mills and Lammi had reservations about Benson's proposal. Marker believes the Schoolhouse Apartments is a unique property and that assigning six ERU's does seem high. His suggestion was to lower the number from six to four. Lammi questioned where the additional money would come from to cover those two remaining ERU's, as he does not believe it should be covered by the reserve fund given the current state of the system and its potential need for repairs and improvements.

Benson moved and Marker seconded that the Council reduce Mr. Arnason's ERU's from six to four and that the remainder be taken out of the reserve fund. Benson and Marker for, Mills and Lammi against. Motion failed for lack of a majority. (Myers abstained from voting)

Myers noted that the use of the property could change at some point back to a single family residence, therefore causing the city to lose those additional ERU's at that time.

Planning Commission – There were two pre-applications at the September meeting. The first was for Irene Qualters, 500 Judd Street, for a front yard setback and the second for Reggie Bengtson, 1021 Quant Ave, for a driveway Conditional Use Permit.

Amy Dresch, FMHC, was in attendance to discuss a proposal from T-Mobile to place a 90ft. monopole tower at the maintenance building. A boom was placed at the site on September 29th, and several Council members and Commission members were available to check the visibility from various locations around town. The impact was very minimal and the crane could not be seen from the river. A task force has been formed to tackle some of the potential issues in order to move ahead, and they will meet in the near future.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – The cyclocross race is scheduled for October 24th.

Public Safety – The ambulance will be out of service for 7-10 days in order for some maintenance work to be performed. Chief Denn is not sure of the exact dates, but will notify the Council when that information becomes available.

Preliminary numbers show the Art Fair proceeds down by approximately \$6,000 from previous years.

Roads– The Highway 95 project was delayed a few days due to the rain. The paving should start within the next week or two. Myers is still trying to contact the contractor regarding a bid for the bike trail. Lammi reported the order has been placed for the crosswalks and installation will be scheduled sometime after the paving is complete.

Public Works will be performing some maintenance on the historic bridge under Judd Street next week, and will need to close a small section of Judd temporarily.

Personnel/Building Inspector – Clerk Peterson and Jason Crotty attended a meeting at the City of Stillwater to discuss a contract proposal with SafeAssure to maintain an OSHA safety program for the City. SafeAssure would provide and maintain all of the City's OSHA training programs and documents and provide all required training for a contract price of \$1,000/year. The City would be partnering with the City of Stillwater and other small cities in the area on some select training programs. This partnership will allow the City to receive a much lower contract price than if it contracted the services as an individual. A comparison bid was received from Chess Safety for the same services, and that bid came in at \$3,000.

Lammi moved and Marker seconded to accept the bid from SafeAssure and to authorize the Mayor to sign a one year contract. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation – Myers presented the final version of the draft trail ordinance. The ordinance focuses more on the allowed uses versus the prohibited uses. The consensus of the Council was

that the ordinance looked good. Myers also noted that there is an opportunity for grant money for the bike trail through the Legacy Trails Grant. The deadline is November 13th, and 75% of the funding would come from the state and the remaining 25% would be City responsibility. Mayor Mills requested the Assistant City Clerk work on putting the grant together.

Marker moved and Benson seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 136 as drafted with the addition of a comma under Section 1 (b) after the word limit. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance – The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00pm.

Hall/Restoration – The Red Bridge ceremony has been moved to October 22nd at 6:30pm.

Cemetery – The appraisal on the Joan Grant property has been completed. Marker will continue to work on this issue. Some information has been obtained on column burial options.

Riverway Rules – No Report.

Village Center – Benson will be meeting with the owners of the General Store next week to discuss their expansion proposal.

Wastewater and Water Systems – There was a broken force main on Holmes Street.

Consent Calendar – *Benson moved and Myers seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/10/09 and , Treasurer's Report dated 9/09, the List of Bills for 10/8/09, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes, and the September Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – William O'Brien is requesting a stand exemption for their special hunt November 7th and 8th.

Marker moved and Lammi seconded to approve the stand exemption for William O'Brien State Park for November 7th and 8th. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Dog Ordinance Amendment – There have been three dog attacks in William O'Brien State Park recently with a local resident's dog. Washington County was questioning whether or not Marine had a dangerous dog reference in the ordinance to address this issue. Mayor Mills stated there is a State Statute that addresses dangerous dogs which would apply within the City limits by reference. The consensus of the Council was to use the State Statute and not amend our current Ordinance at this time.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Clerk Peterson advised FEMA has updated its flood plain maps and as a result, the City will be required to revise its floodplain ordinance. A draft of the revised ordinance will be presented at the November Council meeting.

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

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk