

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Mowery, Willebring and Miller present.

Citizens Present: Jason Crotty, Ryan Goodman, Ann Reich, Gerry Mrosla, Mary Lusher, Chuck Arnason, Sue Logan, Bill Ries, Mary Skamser, Tim Barbaris, Kristina Smitten, Robin Brooksbank, Tom Triplet, Dorothy Deetz, Tom Omdahl, Tammy Newcomb, Christine Cundall.

Designate Official Depository ó Miller moved and Pardun seconded to

Citizens Considerations ó

Green Step Cities ó Diana McKeown was in attendance to present the City of Marine with the Step 1 award for the Green Step Cities program. There are currently 91 cities within Minnesota and the program anticipates having over 100 cities participating by this summer. Ms. McKeown noted that the City of Marine is currently one best practice initiative away from completing Step 2 of the program. Mary Lusher recognized Ann Reich for being the point person on many of these projects.

Gateway Trail Update ó Mowery met with Kent Skaar, Senior Project Manager for all State Park projects, to discuss the progress of the land acquisition for the Gateway Trail from Pine Point park north to Marine. Mr. Skaar updated the Council on the recent process on the south end of the area of the Gateway Trail with the addition of bridges and the new Browns Creek Trail. The City of Scandia has also been working to secure a connection from to the Gateway from Oakhill Road through William O'Brien State Park. Discussions now are beginning to focus on the trail leaving William O'Brien heading south to Pine Point Park. There is currently trail easement secured through Wilder Forest and the committee is looking into trying to secure missing segments of private property. Miller noted that the City is very aware of the potential impact the Gateway may have on local city trails and will certainly keep that in mind when the time comes.

Planning Commission ó No December Meeting. Chairman Mrosla noted that three members are up for renewal appointments, and all three are interested in remaining on the Commission. There has been an inquiry by Tim Pabst for a potential subdivision of the 5 acre parcel that was purchased from Joan Grant. Currently the Zoning Code does not allow for any subdivision for property under 5 acres. The Commission will be looking at potential solutions.

Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to re-appoint Kristina Smitten for a three year term, Jack Warren for a two year term and Joyce Ritz for a one year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety ó Mowery noted that Chief Denn has been working on obtaining a certified

appraisal for the Antique pumper but has been unsuccessful thus far, however he will continue to look into. Chief Denn was also questioning which entity of the City would manage the pumper house once it is turned over to the City. Chief Denn would like to see the Public Safety Department be able to manage the building. Bill Ries would like to see the original pumper committee manage the building with the City handling the maintenance, much like the Civic Club manages the Stonehouse Museum. The Department will be 130 years old in April, so the committee would like to host a grand opening/birthday party event around that timeframe.

Chief Denn will be retiring as Public Safety Chief in December and Mowery noted the Council should begin to think about a formal process for applications to replace that position. Willenbring and Mowery will work on that process.

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed the January Engineering Report. The soil borings are complete and the City should have the report from Northern Technologies by the end of January.

There is a Council workshop on January 26th to discuss the County Rd 4 project designs as the County will be looking for a Resolution from the Council at the February meeting.

Willenbring requested a schematic design for the quantities to level out the crown on Judd Street. Willenbring is thinking that it may be beneficial for the City to use material from the County Rd 4 project for Judd Street as a cost savings. The Council consensus was that sounded fine.

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation ó Ice Rink is open.

Finance ó No Report

Cemetery ó No Report

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Jason Crotty noted an increase in the daily flow average so they are doing some investigation to narrow the source of the problem.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó Willenbring noted there will be a meeting in February.

MarLa - Kay Hempel was in attendance on behalf of the MarLA board, requesting renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and MarLA with two small changes. The first change is eliminating the termination date and instead incorporating an automatic renewal and the second had to do with management of the collection and library programming. Miller noted that his understanding was that there would be a meeting between himself and the board members prior to approving the agreement. Miller is not comfortable with the automatic renewal and would like to see something along the lines of a three year contract. He also would like additional time to review the agreement prior to approving the agreement. After further

discussion the Council consensus was to approve the agreement with the change from automatic renewal to a three year period.

Willenbring moved however there was no second. Pardun suggested changing the verbage from a three year contract to add a specific date of December 31, 2018.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded the Memorandum of Agreement as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration ó Mayor Mills reported on the last Restoration Society meeting. Stacia Rivers is stepping down as Treasurer and that position is currently open. The committee is working on new fundraising ideas and the Progressive Dinner is planned for the first Saturday of June. The committee is also looking for ideas for a first floor remodeling project and the Restoration Society would like to meet with the City and MarLA on this subject.

It was noted that the siding of the Village Hall is close to needing repair and there are areas of rot.

Stormwater/Watershed ó No meeting in December.

Millsite ó Public Works did some erosion control on the path behind the General Store.

Green Step Cities ó No Report.

Holidays ó No Report.

Consent Calendar ó *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/10/15, Treasurers Report of 12/15, List of Bills for 1/14/16, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes (none). Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó

Citizen of the Year ó Diane Mills was nominated in December and Dorothy Deetz nominated Nancy Cosgriff for her work done on the 175th committee. The City will recognize Nancy in the next newsletter. Toni Poletes was also mentioned as a nominee.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to approve Diane Mills for her 6 years of service as the EMS Deputy Chief, many years volunteering on the Art Fair committee as Treasurer of the Relief Association, and as amended to add Toni Poletes posthumously. Motion passed unanimously.

Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to amend the motion to add Toni Poletes posthumously. Motion passed unanimously.

Long/Short Term Goals ó

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó January 19th Special City Council meeting.

The City Council has scheduled a special meeting on January 19th with the Superintendent Pontrelli to discuss the proposed school closings, however she has stated that she will not attend that meeting if the public is allowed to comment or ask questions.

Mayor Mills would like to cancel the meeting if no public comment will be allowed. Willenbring believes there needs to be conversation as to the future plan of the school and property and also believes that the proposed Resolution is more of a response to position that the City has not been able to state to the Superintendent yet. Charles Arnason suggested sending a resolution to the Board individually that the City would like the Board to reconsider the closing in a non-argumentative tone. Miller noted that the biggest request at this point is for the Board to step back and give this proposal additional time prior to making a decision. Mowery noted the Superintendents argument is one of equity, however by closing the schools the northern end of the County there would be no representation at all for those tax payers. Pardun believes the Council needs to meet with the Superintendent to avoid the Board thinking that Marine does not take a position on this issue. Willenbring suggested the Council take the questions from the public ahead of the meeting and then the Council can ask those questions to the Superintendent. Miller believes it is very important to keep an open dialogue with the Board. Each board member was invited individually and four of the seven members have responded with one attending. Kristina Smitten believes there are a lot of people looking at this meeting on January 19th and also believes that the Council can hold this meeting in a respectful way. Mayor Mills would like to see a couple of deputies at the meeting and will be very clear to the audience on how the meeting will be held. Kristina Smitten offered to have the Marine Elementary MSA send out an official email stating the rules of the meeting and that there will be no public comment allowed. Mowery believes the Council has already scheduled the meeting and should hold up its end on holding the conversation. The Council will take citizen questions emailed to the City until Monday, and then the Council will review those questions and select which questions to ask at the meeting. Monday at 5:00pm will be the deadline for accepting questions, then Willenbring and Mowery will review and put together the official questionnaire. Clerk Peterson will notify Superintendent Pontrelli and School Board of the meeting process change.

Adjournment ó *Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:35pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk