

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 9, 2012

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

Citizens Present: David Denn, Harold Teasdale,

Citizens Considerations –

Dale Stull – Sewer Connection Request – Mr. Stull was in attendance to inquire about connecting his house on 570 Judd Street to the City sewer system. Mr. Stull purchased that house in 1991 for his daughter, and was told at the time that he would be able to be added to the City at any time. The current mound system on the property is working just fine, and Mr. Stull has not checked to see if there is room to add a second system should the current system fail, however he doesn't want his daughter to have to worry about any of those issues down the road. That house was not stubbed in at the time the City did their sewer project. Current City code reads that an existing house could be considered for connection if the current system is failing and the City drainfield has capacity. According to a study by the City Engineer done in 2010, the drainfield is at capacity by means of ERU's (number of connections) but not by flow amounts. However, those flow amounts can fluctuate so the engineer recommended the City abide by the ERU count. Mayor Mills will review the code one more time, and review past meeting minutes to see if there is record of the City setting aside a place for Mr. Stull and get back to him with his findings.

Dan Willenbring – Village Center Task Force – Mr. Willenbring stated the Village Center Task Force has been working to put together a concept plan in written form to present to the Planning Commission. This was done at the January meeting, and the Commission has recommended approval of the plan to the City Council. Willenbring presented the plan to the Council via a power point presentation (attached). The plan describes the main purpose of the task force as a body to formalize projects implementing the Village Center provisions, evaluating potential enhancements to the increase the attractiveness of the Village Center and establishing goal implementation dates for those projects. The current members of the task force are Andy and Karen Kramer, Tod Drescher, Karl Benson, Jack Warren, Kristina Smitten, Mary Vogel, Nancy Cosgriff and Dan Willenbring. Any change in the committee will require Council approval.

Miller stated he likes the concept and appreciates the effort on the part of the volunteers to put this project charter in place, however is concerned about the financial impact on the residents. The City budget is very tight, and there have been improvement projects for the downtown area presented in the past, but have never evolved due to lack of funding. Willenbring stated the task force would be responsible for pursuing alternative funding and volunteerism for these projects. Mayor Mills is concerned about the impact of working around the current infrastructure for many of these projects and also any potential long term maintenance. Benson reiterated that this group is strictly an advisory group, so they would work with the City to improve the Village Center and infrastructure together. Miller believes this information should be presented to the community

for input. Benson stated he would be willing to hold additional meetings for the public to attend.

Benson moved and Marker seconded that the City Council here by establish the Village Center Task Force to act as an advisory committee to the City Planning Commission and Council as outlined in its Task Force Charter dated January 31st, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission – Jack Warren reviewed the January meeting. The Commission heard the presentation on the Village Center Task Force, and also discussed the Surface Water Control Plan. After reviewing the Watershed plan, the Commission realized that the plan works well for subdivisions and large lots, but not at all for smaller lots like Marine. Warren stated the Commission is working on a resolution to those issues.

Committee Assignments – Miller questioned is Councilman Benson required his assistance with the Village Center. Since the Task Force is now complete, it didn't seem as though two people will be needed. Miller will be removed from the Village Center Committee.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – Marker reviewed the letter received last month from Harold Teasdale requesting that the Homeowners Association take over the septic system. Since that meeting, Marker met with Eileen Hunter and Carl Nordgren to discuss the request. Discussions were held regarding the interests and obligations of the various stakeholders, and the outcome was that the HOA would like to negotiate an amendment to the Development Agreement for takeover of the system. The City Attorney has reviewed the request, and submitted a starting list of conditions that would need to be met in order to protect the interests of the City. Marker was looking for consensus from the Council regarding which path to take on the issue. The HOA has been successfully financing and running the system for four years. The Council consensus was to continue to move forward with the request. Marker will update the Council on any progress at the March meeting.

Public Safety – Chief Denn reported that the transition to the rescue squad is going very well. The response time from Lakeview ambulance has far exceeded the squad's expectations. Lakeview is currently working with the EMSRB to take over the Scandia area. Currently, nine people have completed first responder training. Kevin Nyenhuis has joined the department as a daytime first responder.

Marker moved and Mowery seconded to approve Kevin Nyenhuis as a probationary member of the rescue squad. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads - Miller noted he is working with Public Works on the 2012 planning. Parker Street needs to be seal coated, however MnDOT owns that property so the City will contact them to see about having them pay for the maintenance.

Personnel/Building Inspector –No Report.

Recreation – Mowery will be meeting with the trail committee and Jason Husveth this coming weekend to begin the trail mapping project.

Finance – No Report.

Hall/Restoration – Mayor Mills received a draft joint powers agreement from MarLa . Mayor Mills requested the Council review the agreement and email any changes/suggestions to the City Clerk. The Council will review those changes at the March meeting, and then send to the City Attorney for review.

Sprinkler System – A quote was received from Frontier Fire Protection to install 2 smaller tanks for \$20,490. Mowery noted there is a company in Scandia who deals with high pressure coating, which could be used to repair the current tank. Chief Denn advised the only problem with using that method is the tank would still need to be sent out to be hydro tested, and there is no way to get that tank out of the building. Jason Crotty will review the bid further and add to the March agenda for discussion.

Cemetery – No Report.

Village Center – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems – The control panel is currently not working at the Jackson Meadow cistern.

Consent Calendar - *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/29/11, 1/12/12, Treasurer's Report dated 1/12, the List of Bills for 2/9/12, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes and the January Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

Citizen of the Year – Mayor Mills questioned if there were any nominations for Citizen of the Year. Miller nominated Dan Willenbring for his 10 years of service on the Planning Commission. Bruce MacGregor was also mentioned. Discussion was held regarding the nominees being restricted to citizens only. Marker doesn't believe in that rule; as there have been many people who do not live in the community however contribute greatly. He would like to see the Citizen of the Year eliminated, and have the Council recognize all of the people who contributed the previous year. The Council will consider that for 2012. Benson also suggested Andy and Karen Kramer for their many volunteer positions within the community and also the work they have done with the General Store to help revitalize the town. After further discussion, the consensus was to move forward with Dan Willenbring and Bruce MacGregor for 2011.

Miller moved and Marker seconded to approve Dan Willenbring and Bruce MacGregor (posthumously) as the 2011 Citizens of the Year. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to adjourn at 8:40p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk