

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2011

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

Citizens Present: Bill Miller, David Denn, Sherrill Reid, Jim Dimmers, Susan Ferron, Sue Logan, Carl Nordgren, Tom Warth, Harold Teasdale, Curt Moe, Eileen Hunter, Everett Myers, Carol Teasdale, Dave Snyder, Ted Fields.

Appointment of Vacant Council Seat – Mayor Mills introduced the two candidates interested in the appointment of the Council seat recently vacated by Mike Lammi. These candidates were Sherrill Reid and Bill Miller, both whom have served on the Council in the past. Mayor Mills advised that this appointment would fill the vacant term until December 2012, and then asked each to address the Council stating their reasons why they are interested in serving and also to field any questions from both the Council and the audience. Benson stated he was most interested in choosing a candidate that would fill the holes left by Mike Lammi, who was head of the Roads, Public Safety and Personnel Committees. Reid advised she has had some experience with the Public Safety, however not Roads or Personnel/Building Inspector. Miller reported that he was previously on the Roads committee and also involved with the Jackson Meadow water takeover, however has no experience with Personnel/Building Inspector. Curt Moe, Carol Teasdale and Susan Ferron all voiced their concerns that Miller has had issues in the past dealing with various members of the community on certain issues. Marker believes that every Council has some confrontations at times, however Marine has been fortunate to have good functioning Councils. He also noted that residents always have an opportunity to run for a Council seat during City elections if they are not satisfied with the members serving. After further discussion, Benson made a motion to appoint Sherrill Reid to fill the vacant Council seat. This motion failed due to lack of a second. Mowery also advised that he would like to see the vacancy filled based upon experience, and believes Bill Miller would be the best candidate.

Mowery moved and Marker seconded to approve Resolution No. 060911-01, Approving William Miller to the Vacant Council Seat to Which Michael Lammi was Elected Effective January 1, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Oath of Office – Clerk Peterson administered the Oath of Office to Bill Miller as the newly appointed Council member.

Citizens Considerations - Susan Ferron and Jim Dimmers were in attendance to request the rental fee be waived for the Village Hall on July 16th. That is the weekend the St. Croix River Association is hosting the Paddle the St. Croix event, and that Saturday night Marine will be hosting a square dance from 7:30pm – 9:30pm for those people participating in the event. Benson questioned whether the City would allow some campers to pitch their tents in the Burris or Millsite parks in the event there is a state shutdown and William O'Brien closes. The Council seemed to think the Mill Site might be a better solution. Curt Moe will check with Tom Elig of

the Historical Society.

Benson moved and Marker seconded to waive the hall rental fee for the St. Croix River Association event on July 16th. Motion passed unanimously.

Mill Site Grant – Curt Moe advised the Trails Committee has applied for a \$2500 matching grant for vegetation removal and replanting efforts at the Mill Site. The State Historical Society is waiting for a State Archeologist to visit the site and comment prior to receiving final approval.

Planning Commission – The Village Center committee presented the draft plan for the downtown area.

Committee Assignments – Marker will join Mowery on Public Safety, Miller will take Roads with Mowery and Village Center with Benson, Mills will take over Hall/Restoration and Benson will take Personnel/Building Inspector.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – Marker gave the background on the Jackson Meadow wastewater takeover request. Ted Field, City Engineer and Dave Snyder, City Attorney were both in attendance to address any questions/concerns the Council had. Mr. Field recently completed an Engineering Report on the System (attached) and advised there are three categories addressed: Immediate Action, Financial Aspects/Maintenance and Operation, and Future Risks.

Immediate Action items would include having at least one City Staff person obtaining the required license to operate the system. The City would have the option of contracting with EcoCheck in the interim, as they are currently acting as the licensee. Other issues to resolve would be to obtain as-built drawings and an operation manual, purchase an emergency generator, replace current pumps with grinder pumps, obtain an electrical code inspection and have the system televised.

Financial Aspects would require review of the current user fees to insure the amount collected would be sufficient to cover all operational costs along with building a reserve fund.

Future Risks would involve changing the current rate structure as currently the amount collected would not cover a total replacement of the system. Also, the MCPA is monitoring elevated nitrogen levels which will require a mitigation plan to help alleviate additional problems down the road.

Marker noted that the biggest issue concerning the City is that we are not unduly exposed once the system is taken over. The wastewater will be its own sewer district, and therefore all costs incurred will be paid for by the users. The current reserve fund has approximately \$25,000, and the cost to complete the immediate action items would more than likely exceed that amount.

Harold Teasdale is concerned that the costs incurred by the City and passed along to himself as the Developer. If those costs begin to become too high, as they did with the water takeover, Teasdale said he is not interested in pursuing the takeover. Marker believes the City has been, and will continue to be cost conscientious, however this is a complicated system and the City has a responsibility to make sure all issues are properly addressed. Eileen Hunter, Jackson Meadow resident, stated that the Homeowners Association has been running the system in place of the Developer for the last couple of years, and questioned how that plays into who the City works with on the takeover. Dave Snyder advised the contractual agreement is between the City and the Developer, not the Homeowners Association, and therefore all legal responsibility goes back to Teasdale although the City should take all public comment into consideration when making a decision. Hunter then questioned if the City would be willing to provide cost estimates for the next steps involving the Engineer and Attorney so both the Developer and Homeowners Association can be better prepared. Marker thought that would be a reasonable request.

The next steps in this process will be for the Engineer and Attorney to work with Marker on preparing those costs estimates and also a list of conditions moving forward. Once these are complete, the City will give those to the Developer and Homeowners Association to review and decide whether or not to move forward.

Public Safety – Chief Denn reported there will be a house burn on Saturday, June 11th, the Street dance will be held on Saturday, June 18th and the Department is requesting the approval of one day liquor license, and Julia Brooksbank is interested in becoming a temporary member of the ambulance for the summer.

Mowery moved and Marker seconded to approve a one day liquor license for Saturday, June 18th. Motion passed unanimously.

Marker moved and Benson seconded to accept Julia Brooksbank as a probationary member to the Public Safety Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads – The crack filling and patching is complete. Dust control will be applied on June 17th.

Personnel/Building Inspector – No Report.

Recreation – Everett Myers questioned if the Council has had a chance to look at the proposed trail through the maintenance shop property. Some of the members have not yet had a chance to walk the proposed trail. Mayor Mills stated he also has a few suggestions for changes, and is also concerned that there is no agreement with William O'Brien on a connection point. The Council will walk the property and discuss at the July meeting.

Finance – No Report.

Hall/Restoration – Mayor Mills would like to review some Village Hall maintenance issues with Public Works.

Cemetery – No Report.

Village Center – The Village Center committee presented their draft plan to the Planning Commission at the May meeting. The next presentations will be to the local business owners, Restoration Society and Mill Stream Association. Once that feedback is received, then the committee will bring forth their plan to the City Council. Benson also noted that he will be contacting MnDOT regarding storm water runoff issues on Highway 95 which are impacting the downtown area.

Library Update – The 501.3C has been completed for the Friends of the Library group. The library committee is looking into hosting a few summer programs. Benson noted that there are some internal issues with the County due to the state legislature issues.

Wastewater and Water Systems – There are some rust and deterioration issues with well #2 of the Jackson Meadow water system.

Consent Calendar – *Marker moved and Benson seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/12/11, Treasurer's Report dated 5/11, the List of Bills for 6/5/11, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes (none) and the May Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – Clerk Peterson advised the annual insurance renewal is due and is requesting a motion to once again waive the tort liability limit.

Miller moved and Marker seconded to waive the tort liability limit for the annual insurance renewal. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Adjournment – *Benson moved and Marker seconded to adjourn at 8:34pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk