

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 12, 2012

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

Citizens Present: Linda Tibbits, Jack Warren, Charles Arnason, Mary Skamser, Matt Miller Bill Ries.

Citizens Considerations –

Matt Miller – The Brookside is requesting music permits through August 26th for both Saturday and Sundays. The noise issue seems to be resolved and there were no complaints after last weekend. Mayor Mills requested a list of the band names, which Mr. Miller will supply. Mr. Miller noted that the Brookside is starting a Bruce McGregor bike run at the end of August, and the music permit request for the weekend will be for a longer time frame than the normal four hours. The Council will review that request when the permit application is submitted.

Dave and Cecelia Best Letter – A letter was received from Dave and Cecelia Best complaining about the raising of chickens by Karl and Marie Benson. The raising of chickens is not addressed in the urban district, and according to Section 106 of the Development Code, if an issue is not specifically approved or denied, then it is prohibited. Benson recused himself from the Council discussion. As a resident, he could not find anything in the code prohibiting chickens and therefore he assumed they were allowed. Currently there are 24 cities in the metro area that allow chickens in a residential zone, and believes Marine should address this issue. Clerk Peterson suggested sending a letter to the property owners giving them a time line to rectify the situation, and then suggesting the property owner request a change to the zoning ordinance. Marker agrees that this issue needs to be addressed, however also believes it is a reasonable allowance. The Council directed the City Clerk to send all known property owners within the urban district who currently house chickens a letter stating the City will be passing this issue to the Planning Commission for consideration and they are welcome to attend those meetings with input.

Planning Commission – Jack Warren reported that the June meeting was a joint meeting with the Council to review the Watershed district plan. Select members of the City Council and Planning Commission then met with the Watershed District at their monthly meeting to request relief from certain sections of the watershed rules. Warren believes the discussion went very well, and feels that the Watershed Board is open to working with the City. The biggest issues with the rules seem to be how they apply to Marine's urban district. Jim Shaver created a table based off of past building permits in Marine, and the average cost of storm water mitigation for an average project was between \$800 - \$900 per resident. Discussion was also held regarding the application process running through the City office to alleviate some of the hardship on the property owner. The City has until the middle of September to accept the Watershed rules as a whole. There is currently no formal process for accepting the rules on a provisional basis, and if the City does not formally accept the rules by the deadline, the State deems then accepted by the City as is. The

other option is the City creates their own rules, which must be equal or stricter than the current Watershed rules. The Watershed District will be writing a letter to the Met Council stating Marine will accept the plan and rules subject to the rules being re-written and agreed upon by both the City and Watershed District after the formal acceptance. The Commission will create a list of changes they would like to see made, and forward those on to the Watershed District. Miller wanted to remind everyone that there is an opening on the Watershed Board, and the Council would really like a local resident be added to the Board to help represent Marine.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – No Report

Public Safety – No Report.

Roads - The borings have been done on Linden Street, however the results have not been received by the Engineer yet. A decision was made to bore down an additional ten feet to gather additional data for future Village Center projects. Currently there is a plan in place to remove the north end of Judd Street at Oak Street. The engineer's recommendation is to wait until late September, after Art Fair. Miller will forward the report to the Village Center Task Force once it is received. Bill Ries, resident, questioned the benefits of removing the asphalt from the north end of Judd Street. Benson advised it is part of a plan to help reduce storm water runoff and increase green space in the Village Center, however the final plan has not been decided and will be discussed at an upcoming Council meeting. Miller also noted that this project has been on the Council's radar for a very long time and isn't a new issue.

TKDA Mapping – The City became aware that many of the maps created for various past City projects were not given to the City by the Engineer. The City requested these maps and was told this would cost the City \$1300. Miller is upset the City is being charged for these, and would like the Council to discuss at the August meeting.

Personnel/Building Inspector –

Personnel role in City Events – A letter was received by Chief Denn addressing the suspension of City staff assistance with the Art Fair (attached). Benson advised that he directed all City Staff to cease any work on the Art Fair until a formal request was made by the Public Safety Department. Discussion was held as to what role the City staff should have in the Art Fair and as to whether these types of activities are taking precedence over every day priorities. These issues also apply to other organizations such as Restoration Society, Civic Club, etc. Mary Skamser, volunteer on the Art Fair steering committee, is concerned that stopping assistance from City staff midstream could be detrimental, and would like the City staff to continue to help as needed, but agrees that specific duties should be spelled out as to what the City staff is responsible for. Marker believes that some formality had been put in place during the time Mike Lammi worked with staff when the Art Fair was taken over from Doris Strand, however he also believes that there should be further direction as to time allowance for these events. Marker agrees with the

goal, but is concerned that Benson's idea is overly regimented. Marker believes the City should define what the roles should be for each event and that staff reviews these roles and deems whether they can handle it. Marker also sees the obvious personality difference between Benson and the Chief and thinks that needs to also be addressed in order to move forward. Marker will work with Mary Skamser to create a list of potential tasks that the Art Fair committee will require assistance from City staff and present that to Council.

City Engineer Change – Miller feels the City is not receiving the level of service from TKDA that is expected. There has been massive turnover over the last several years, and the lack of communication by TKDA has been very frustrating. Miller would like the City to go out for an RFP for new engineering firms.

Miller moved and Marker seconded that the City go out for RFP's for City Engineering services for both general engineering and wastewater. Motion passed unanimously.

Garbage RFP – Miller moved and Benson seconded to go out for RFP's for garbage and recycling services. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation – The trails maps are complete, hope to see them by August.

Finance – Clerk Peterson is requesting budget wish list items prior to the August meeting.

Hall/Restoration - Sprinkler tanks are installed.

MarLa Agreement - Council reviewed the proposed changes and the consensus was that it looks good. Clerk Peterson will forward on to the City Attorney.

Mary Tomnitz requested the thermostat from the library be moved into the assistant clerk's office. The Council would like a quote for what that would cost.

Cemetery – No Report.

Village Center – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Mayor Mills created a chart showing the dramatic drop in I&I over the last couple of years. Mayor Mills is also looking into the cost of creating another cell for the drain field. Benson would also like to begin to seriously look at re-evaluating the ERU's for the Village Center.

Consent Calendar – Miller moved and Benson seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/14/12, Treasurers Report of 6/12, List of Bills, Zoning Administrators Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business -

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Council candidate filing opens July 31st.

Local Board of Review training will be September 19th at 6pm.

Approve of Election Judges for the Primary and General Elections.

Miller moved and Benson seconded to approve Ruth Peck, Ruth Ogren, June Eagleton, Linda Tibbets, Gail Coolidge, Sandy Burrill and Mary Skamser as election judges for the primary and general elections. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Benson seconded to adjourn at 9:27p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk