

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Marker, Benson (7:06), Miller, and Mowery present.

Citizens Present: Fran Miron, Paul Hand, Rick Rud, Mike Miron, Ryan Goodman, Lon Pardun, Dan Willenbring, David Denn, Sherill Reid, Larry Gilbert, Jim Studenski,

Citizens Considerations

Fran Miron – Washington County Commissioner – Mr. Miron introduced himself to the Council and advised he is running for County Commissioner in the upcoming election. Mr. Miron currently serves as the Mayor of Hugo and has for the last 16 years. He hopes to bring local government consensus and fiscal responsibility to the County level if elected.

Planning Commission – The Council met with the Planning Commission on September 6th to approve the Local Surface Water Management plan.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – No Report

Public Safety – Mowery attended the annual meeting. The 2013 budget items were discussed. The Art Fair is this coming weekend.

Roads -

New City Engineer Recommendation – Six proposals were received from various firms. Of those six, three were selected for interviews; Bolton Menk, Focus and Stantec. Mayor Mills, Bill Miller, Jason Crotty and Lynette Peterson were part of the interviewing process. After interviewing those firms, Bolton Menk seemed to fit the needs of the City the best. Miller advised they will attend Council meetings at no charge, and will bill at a reduced rate for the first 24 hours of work each month. Ryan Goodman, was in attendance on behalf of Bolton Menk, and would serve as the City Engineer if selected. One concern of the Council was turnover. Bolton Menk is a privately owned firm and has a long standing history of retaining employees. In the event that Mr. Goodman would leave the firm, there will be other engineers in the firm that will also know Marine's history and they will never charge to get another engineer up to speed. Marker voiced his appreciation for TKDA for all of the years they have acted as the City engineer.

Miller moved and Marker seconded to accept Bolton Menk as the new City Engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Building Inspector -

Garbage RFP. – Proposals were received from Waste Management, Maroney’s and Veolia. Representatives were in attendance from Waste Management and Veolia. A comparison was given to the Council of the rates for both residential and commercial for all three companies. Both representatives spoke on behalf of their companies. The rates for Waste Management have increased slightly due to the Washington County tipping fees. Veolia stated their rates are lower due to the high density of their hauling.

Benson requested a month to consider the proposals. The Council will move this issue to the October meeting.

Animal Control Discussion - A letter was received from Pete and Erica Oesterriech regarding an issue with animal control. A letter was also received from the Woodbury Humane Society requesting termination of their contract with the City. After conversations with Scandia and May Township, Hillcrest Animal Hospital is another resource for taking animals and they also do not have a requirement for taking in cats. Benson believes Hillcrest is a good option for the City. Miller noted that the current contract May Township and Scandia have with Sherrill Reid is a very comprehensive contract and addresses many of the issues the City has had and suggested Marine should change our contract to match theirs. Miller would also like a written report of all incidents Ms. Reid has, whether they are billed for or not. The Council agreed.

Benson is glad that the Oesterreich’s put forth their concerns, however he doesn’t believe it is the Council’s job to act on those types of issues. Benson did suggest that maybe Ms. Reid send a letter of apology to the Oesterreich’s. Mayor Mills questioned if Ms. Reid had a response to the letter. Ms. Reid believes it was hearsay and unethical for the Humane Society to give the information in the letter to the Oesterreich’s. Miller questioned if Ms. Reid should come across a situation where she thought an animal was being mistreated, how would she handle the situation. Ms. Reid stated she would contact law enforcement.

Clerk Peterson will draft a new contract for animal control and forward to the City Attorney, along with the contract for Hillcrest for review.

Benson moved and Miller seconded that the City enter into a contract with Hillcrest Animal Hospital and terminate the contract with the Woodbury Humane Society effective immediately. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation – Dan Willenbring updated the Council on the last Village Center Task Force committee. The committee reviewed a proposed trail starting from the Chocolate Shop and moving around by the Mill Pond. The proposed trail surface would be crushed trap rock or another type of pervious material. Mowery met with Tod Drescher from the Task Force to review that proposed trail. Miller wants to make sure that the property in question is actually owned by the City. Mowery noted that there are no plans to begin work right away, and that the

proposed trail is still in the idea stage. Benson would like to make sure that an additional trail would not impact Public Works given the trail study and mapping project being worked on. Willenbring also mentioned that they are looking at potential grants for dredging the Mill Pond and will also be meeting with MnDOT on various issues.

Mowery thanked Mike Tibbitts for placing a stone platform on the second set of steps of the Gazebo. The work and materials were donated by Mr. Tibbitts.

Finance – The Council met on August 29th to review the 2013 budget. The current proposed budget is at an 8.83% increase. The Council was comfortable setting this percentage as the proposed levy amount. The County has set the Truth in Taxation meeting for December 6th, 2012 at 6:00pm.

Miller moved and Benson seconded to set the levy at \$714098.59 which represents an 8.83% increase. Motion passed unanimously.

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to set the Truth in Taxation meeting for December 6th 2012 at 6:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration - Clerk Peterson reported the grant for the Village Hall which the Restoration Society was working on cannot be finalized due to an open grant from 2004 which was never closed out for the Stonehouse Museum. The Restoration Society is looking at other funding options for the basement project.

Cemetery – No Report.

Village Center – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Finishing up the contract pumping and will begin jetting next week.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Benson seconded to approve the Minutes of 8/12/12, 8/29/12 and 9/6/12, Treasurers Report of 8/12, List of Bills, Zoning Administrators Report (none), Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business - Clerk Peterson reminded the Council of the Local Board of Review training on September 19th from 6pm – 9pm.

Kevin Nyenhuis, on behalf of the Jackson Meadow Neighborhood Association, questioned using the hydrant to flood their ice rink this winter. The Council was fine with it.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Adjournment – *Marker moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:07p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk