

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, October 8, 2015

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

Citizens Present: Jason Crotty, Ryan Goodman, Gerry Mroska, Bret and Dawn Haake, Dan Froiland, Tod Drescher, Dorothy Deetz, Dave Snyder, Mike/Megan Zajac, Mary Skamser, Kay Hempel, Shannon Quinn, Tommy Boesel, Jody Nyenhuis, Loralee DiLorenzo

Citizens Considerations ó Jody Nyenhuis óMrs. Nyenhuis was in attendance to request that the Kierstmart be brought back to Marine this year. There is no date set yet, but it would be one weekend rather than two weekends. There are events every weekend in December, so those events would need to be taken in consideration for parking, etc. Pardun noted that there have been complaints in the past of the booths/buildings not be taken down right after the event, so if an application is made then the Council should be aware of what kinds of things will be placed in the park. Mrs. Nyenhuis will coordinate with the other events and come back with a proposed date.

Bret Haake ó Encroachment Agreement Request ó Dave Snyder, City Attorney, was in attendance to review an encroachment agreement request to replace an existing garage which is encroaching into Second Street approximately three feet. The garage is currently deteriorating, and needs replacing. The Zoning Code allows for a substandard structure, constructed prior to the existence of the code, to be replaced as it currently exists. Miller questioned if a survey has been received. Mr. Snyder advised a current survey has been received, and a site inspection has been done by the building inspector. Mr. Haake noted that the carport has already been removed, and is comfortable with the encroachment agreement. Dan Froiland, neighbor, questioned if the rebuild must be to the exact current dimensions. The Council advised the new garage will be exactly the same as the current structure.

*Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the encroachment agreement as drafted by the City Attorney and to include the proposed amendment by Councilman Willenbring. Motion passed unanimously.*

Planning Commission ó Chairman Mroska was in attendance to update the Council on the September Planning Commission meeting. Clare Lundgren was in attendance to question the possibility of receiving a variance for a piece of property they have owned since the 1950s, however does not meet the lot size requirement for lot width. The Commission could not give official approval without an actual application, however the overall feeling was that something could be worked out.

Public Safety ó Fire Prevention open house was Tuesday night. Approximately \$20,000 was

raised during the Art Fair. Nine people are currently in first responder training.

Roads - An open house was held on October 1<sup>st</sup> for the County Rd 4 project. Approximately 35-40 people were in attendance. Pardun has not received any feedback as of yet, but there will be a meeting next week to review the results. Ryan Goodman received an email from Washington County just prior to the Council meeting, which will be forwarded to the Council for review. The project looks as though it will take place in 2017 rather than fall of 2016. Goodman suggested discussing the details at the November Council meeting. Mowery met with a resident to discuss a change in Zone 2 where green space will be removed and thirteen feet of pavement or impervious surface is proposed to be added. There is an additional concern that the road width would be expanded to the point of some residents needing to move fences, etc. on their property and there is additional concern that the new proposal does not fit into the character of Marine. Goodman noted that there were many of those similar comments received at the last meeting, and the fact is the sidewalk replacement cost is covered by the County up to five feet, but anything beyond five feet would be the City's responsibility. The proposed sidewalk shows a seven foot width, and in reality it doesn't make any sense for the City to pay for the additional concrete to expand the width of the sidewalk. Pardun noted that those plans are strictly concept ideas and nothing has been approved, and that the reason for these meetings is to get citizen input on those ideas. The City Clerk will post the County project website link on the City website for the residents to see the concept plan and read the comments.

Miller questioned the contract with Braun Intertec which was signed by Councilman Willenbring. State Statute states that all decisions, such as entering into contracts, is a Council decision and no individual Council member has the authority to enter into any contracts on behalf of the City. Miller believes this contract should have been brought forth by the City Engineer and approved by the entire Council. Ryan Goodman noted that doing work without the Council and Engineer involved can pose a variety of issues, and recommends always bringing forth decisions to the entire Council. Miller also noted that contract with Braun was a standalone contract and no other bids were received and believes that by using the Engineer, the City could have worked in conjunction with other cities and received a better price, and also this could be a red flag with the City auditor. Miller noted that the Council never voted to authorize this contract, nor was any City staff member brought into this project. Mayor Mills agreed, and the Council consensus was to pull the bill and not pay this month until the final report from Braun is received. The Council will review this issue at the November meeting.

Ryan Goodman presented his Engineering report. The DNR has informed the City of Marine that a water supply plan will now be required. Goodman will work with Public Works on this plan and will come forward to the Council with recommendations and comment. Miller questioned if this is for private wells or for a public water supply. This is for the Jackson Meadow water system.

Personnel/Building Inspector - Pardun introduced Jami Philip as the new Assistant City Clerk.

Recreation ó No Report.

Finance ó The Truth in Taxation meeting is Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Interest rates were received for a certificate of indebtedness for the dump truck, and they are between 1.55% and 2.55%. Miller would like to move forward on a decision for purchasing the truck at the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Cemetery ó A few trees were removed.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó A pump needs to be replaced in the lift station behind the General Store.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó No Report.

MarLa - Kay Hempel was in attendance to request the annual 2% draw of the Jordan Bequest of \$6,000. Some of the projects that will be done with that money is carpet replacement and the purchase of a new scanner. Ms. Hempel noted that County browser was incorporated with the Marine Library, so there is only one browser system now. The County also continues to give new books to the Marine Library. There have been approximately 995 patrons so far this year, and the adult programming has been very successful, and there are approximately 100 names on the volunteer list. Ms. Hempel also requested an accounting for the Jordan bequest funds from Washington County.

*Miller moved and Mowery seconded to request the annual Jordan bequest money of \$6,000 to Washington County. Motion passed unanimously.*

Hall/Restoration ó Mayor Mills would really like to see bathrooms renovated in the near future.

Stormwater/Watershed ó Pardun reported that the Watershed committee is meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the grant funds for the raingarden project. Currently there are approximately 29 residents who would like to pursue a raingarden, which is over the grant allowance however there are opportunities to pursue an additional grant.

Millsite ó No Report.

Green Step Cities ó The ReTAP audit report has been received, and the outcome shows that City is already doing a lot to help with energy conservation. There were a few additional recommendations.

Holidays ó No Report.

Consent Calendar ó *Miller moved Pardun and seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/10/15,*

*Treasurers Report of 9/15, List of Bills for 10/8/15, minus the Braun Intertec payment and a note that the payroll dates are for 2015, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the 5 ft stand exemption for William O'Brien State Park. Motion passed unanimously.

*Miller moved and Mowery seconded to appoint Lon Pardun as the alternate for the DNR Partnership Team alternate. Motion passed unanimously.*

Long/Short Term Goals ó No change.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó An article was published for the top 15 richest City's in Minnesota and Marine was listed as number 8 with a population of 2600. This number was

Adjournment ó *Mowery moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:55pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk