

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, October 10, 2013

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

Citizens Present: Gerry Mroska, Ryan Goodman, Kristina Smitten, Jack Warren.

Watershed District Memorandum of Understanding –

Kristina Smitten reviewed the most current draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Watershed District. Some of the changes from the last draft are 1. The term limit of when the implementation needs to be done, 2. A clause allowing the City to opt out of the agreement if things are not working as planned.

Smitten advised there is no specific timeline for implementing the mitigation, however a grant has been applied for, and if it is received, she believes the City could then use those funds to complete much of the mitigation ahead of time. If at any time, the City or the Watershed believes the MOU is not working, either party can advise in writing and the City would then fall back to the regular Watershed rules, and any/all mitigation would fall back directly on the property owner.

Smitten reviewed the grant which was applied for by the Watershed District on behalf of the City. This grant is through BOWSER, and will assist in the design and implementation of these stormwater mitigations project. The grant amount is approximately \$98,000, of which \$25,000 would need to be matched. \$15,000 of this match would come from funds the Watershed has already set aside for Marine, and the remaining would be covered by the City. BOWSER will award the grant January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Water Quality BMP Study – Ryan Goodman presented the results of the Water Quality BMP study which correlates with the MOU. The study recognizes “mini zones” within the residential districts around the City for the BMP implementation, outlines future maintenance requirements, and establishes a Water Quality Permit Fee structure to help offset the BMP costs. This water quality permit fee would be based on total square footage of the project at approximately \$1.50 per square foot.

Mayor Mills opened the Public Hearing at 7:27pm for the purpose of discussing the Local Stormwater Management Plan.

Kristina Smitten advised the Local Stormwater Management Plan is a required plan which the City must adopt. The current plan is in draft form and changes will be made consistent with the

approved MOU and will be submitted for Council review. Mayor Mills advised the Public Hearing will be recessed until the November hearing, at which the time the Council will act on the proposed plan.

Mayor Mills recessed the Public Hearing until 7:00pm on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Citizens Considerations – Steve Suby was in attendance to discuss the proposed increase to the Jackson Meadow water rates. Mr. Suby is aware of the major expenses to the system during 2103, however doesn't understand why the Council is proposing such a large increase. The proposal increases the base rate from \$19.47 to \$29.47 and the usage rate per 1,000 gallons from \$2.14 to \$4.14. Mr. Suby would like to create a committee to review the rates and come up with a new solution.

Willenbring noted that any change in the proposal would need to be complete late November in order to meet the Truth in Taxation timeline.

Jason Crotty advised there are upcoming issues with the cistern tank which will need to be replaced, and the Jackson Meadow HOA is requesting a generator for backup power which there is currently no funds to provide for.

Pardun is concerned about setting a precedent to have a rate committee with the water, when the City's wastewater fund is not run in the same way. Willenbring believes if the committee is operating under a workshop idea then he thinks it's a good idea. Willebring and Mills will be the Council liaisons to this committee.

Planning Commission – Gerry Mroska updated the Council that the Commission is still working on the codes.

Committee Reports –

Public Safety – Mowery advised there are two new members to the department, Tim Barbaris and Colin Faulkner. There are also three new potential members upcoming.

Art Fair will net approximately \$20,000. Fire Prevention week was successful, with over 100 people attending the open house.

Members of the department have voted to not donate the historic pumper to the Washington County Historical Society. A committee has been formed and given 60 days to come up with a restoration and maintenance plan. Willenbring suggested building a structure on the south side of the Mill Site property for storage and to showcase the pumper. The Council thought that idea was definitely something to consider, however they also like the idea of the Historical Society housing it.

*Mowery moved and Willenbring seconded to approve Colin Faulkner and Tim Barbaris as*

*probationary members to the Public Safety Department. Motion passed unanimously.*

Roads - The City Engineer submitted the traffic count study from Oak St, Linden Judd and Third St. for the Council's review.

Personnel/Building Inspector - Received the animal control report. Mayor Mills would like a little more information included in the report. Pardun noted that the contract is up in December, and is wondering if the City needs to have an animal control officer at all. The Council is frustrated with the reports submitted, and believes Ms. Reid was well aware of the report requirement when the contract was signed. Willenbring suggested implementing a retainer clause that would compensate the officer monthly for their services, i.e reports, then pay their fee per dog above and beyond the monthly retainer.

Recreation- Mowery, Mayor Mills and Jason Crotty looked at a couple of trees that the JacksonMeadow Association would like removed in the Hollow to accommodate the ski trails. Crotty will look at getting bids to remove those trees. Mowery also looked at the area hit with Oak Wilt, and would like to get someone out to look at the area. Mowery and Lusher met again with Jason Husveth to review the trail maps, and a first draft will be presented at the November meeting. There are approximately 300 boards that should be replaced along the Red Bridge. There is money in the reserve funds to pay for the repairs.

Finance – *Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to set the Truth in Taxation meeting for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

The 2012 Audit was approved by the Auditor.

Willenbring would like to review the overall budget for 2013 at the November meeting and try to forecast the amount left for reserves. The thought would be to use any funds left to help offset the 2104 budget.

Hall/Restoration - No Report.

Cemetery – No Report.

MarLa - No Report.

Village Center – Willenbring submitted Minutes from the last meeting (attached). A response was received from a letter sent to Bob Dettmer regarding funding for the Mill Site, and Representative Dettmer attended the Art Fair and toured the Mill Site area. Senator Housley will be attending a meeting in Marine on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm to discuss upcoming Mill Site projects. If the Council would like to attend, the meeting can be posted as a Council workshop.

Stormwater/Watershed – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems – Everything in the Sewer system is fine. There was a contamination of Well #1 in the Jackson Meadow water system. The contamination has been cleared and the system is back on line.

Consent Calendar – *Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/13/13, Treasurers Report of 9/13, List of Bills for 10/10/13, Zoning Administrators Report - none, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes - None. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

Weed Ordinance – Clerk Peterson reviewed the draft ordinance with a few changes from last month. Willebring questioned whether the City should be held to the same standard as the residents regarding weeds. Michael Mackner, resident, was in attendance and questioned what the City can do about properties that are foreclosed upon. The City can follow the abatement process.

*Willenbring moved to adopt Ordinance 144, Resolution 131010-01, amending Chapter 8, Nuisances, of the Marine City Code by adding Section 8.02 Weeds. Motion passed unanimously.*

William O'Brien Stand Exemption – *Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to approve a stand exemption for William O'Brien for their deer hunt on November 9 and 10. Motion passed unanimously .*

Long/Short Term Goals – No changes.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Willebring attended a meeting with the Art Reach to discuss a trail linking all of the bench projects throughout the St. Croix Valley. Marine has a bench located on the Mill Site property. There are some homework projects that Willenbring will be presenting to the Elementary School to see if there is any interest.

Willebring was also contacted by a publication from St Croix Valley Tourism Association requesting the City advertise in their magazine. The cost would be \$135 annually to advertise. Mowery suggested using this publication to help advertise the Art Fair. The consensus of the Council was to go ahead and advertise for 2014.

*Willebring moved and Mowery seconded to approve the City advertise with the St. Croix Valley Tourism Association. Motion passed unanimously.*

Adjournment – *Mowery moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:00p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk