

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 13 , 2016

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

Citizens Present: Ryan Goodman, David Denn, Jason Crotty, Jami Philip, Anna Hagstrom, John Goodfellow, Kirsten Vandheim, Mary Skamser, Dorothy Deetz, Gerry Mrosła, Mary Burke, Anne Reich, Charles Arnason, Kent Store, Tom Omdahl, Brandon Helm, Andy Powell, Tod Drescher, Andy Kramer, Kent Skaar, Rachael Hinzman.

Citizens Considerations ó Kent Skaar was in attendance to present the Council with a hand painted picture of downtown Marine from the 1920s. The Council thanked Mr. Skaar for the gift.

Planning Commission ó Chairman Mrosła reported on the September meeting. The proposed subdivision for Tim Pabst's property on Broadway St is moving forward. There is also a vacancy on the Commission since Joyce Ritz left. Anna Hagstrom, Marine resident, submitted her letter of interest.

Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to accept Anna Hagstrom as a member of the Planning Commission for a three year term.

Public Safety ó Chief Denn noted this week is fire prevention week. Art Fair went well, with a net of approximately \$17,000. The steering committee will be meeting later this month to discuss the future of the Art Fair and potential changes. There is an upcoming probationary member that will be presented for approval next month.

Willenbring and Mowery are working on the process for the new chief position, which will be posted next week. A survey was sent to all department members, which will be used as part of this process. There are three officers, one member at large, Mike Heinz from the Scandia department and one citizen that will be on the selection committee. The hope is to have a candidate ready for approval at the November or December meeting.

Roads -

Engineering Report ó Ryan Goodman noted that the retaining wall project should hopefully take place in 2017. There is still work being done on Highway 8 and the Highway 97/35 bridge.

Pardun reported on a meeting for County Rd 4. The subject of dredging the upper Millpond came up. Pardun was approached by a resident requesting the pond be dredged. It is a complicated issue due to the trout stream, however there may be an opportunity to dredge a portion of the pond as part of the County Rd 4 project but nothing has been decided at this point.

Seal coating is complete and there is a contractor's request for payment in the amount of \$38,323.90.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the final payment for Allied Blacktop Company in the amount of \$38,323.90. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation ó John Goodfellow was in attendance to report on the urban forest plan he has offered to create for the City. As part of this project, a grant was applied for and approved through the EPA in the amount of \$1000. The City's cost responsibility will be \$200 to cover the cost of administration. The goal is to have this project complete by early December.

Gateway Trail ó Brandon Helm, Racheal Hinzman, DNR parks and trails division, and Kent Skaar were in attendance to present a presentation on the Gateway Trail extension. The current section of the trail the DNR is focusing on is connecting Pine Point park to Scandia. The Parks and Trails division is currently working on the land acquisition up to Marine. The trail would then extend through the west side of Hollow property, past the maintenance building and into William O'Brien State Park. As part of this process, a Joint Powers Agreement will be required between the City and the DNR. Andy Powell, Jackson Meadow resident, noted one concern of the Jackson Meadow residents is if the Gateway comes near the Jackson Meadow and local trails, that the Gateway does not negatively impact those trails. Mr. Powell currently feels that those concerns are being addressed by the DNR. There currently is no definitive plan for the exact route of the trail, and as that plan develops there will be continued communication with the City and also with residents through public meetings.

Committee Consolidation-

Finance ó Pardun moved and Willenbring seconded to set the 2017 Truth in Taxation meeting for December 6, 2106 at 6:30pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery ó No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Thein Well completed the repairs on well #2 in Jackson Meadow.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó Andy Kramer presented a proposal for interpretive signs around the Village Center. The Task Force believes these signs will promote the character of Village center and also increase vitality of the downtown businesses. This proposal was presented to the Restoration Society and they are in favor of the project.

The proposal is for signage to be placed at up to 19 historic sites within the Village Center limits,

describing sites that are both still in existence and others that are no longer there. There is a mixture of both private and public sites, so the proper approvals would need to be secured prior to installation. Another piece of the proposal would be a larger four panel sign to be placed somewhere by the flagpole that would be a "welcome to Marine" type sign. The proposed budget for this project is approximately \$14,000 and the committee is proposing to use the \$15,000 currently set aside for Village Center signage. There is also an opportunity to apply for a grant through MHS Heritage Tourism for \$10,000. The next deadline is in December and the City would be the official applicant.

Mary Skamser, resident, believes 19 signs seems like an overwhelming amount of signs and in the past the City has always talked about not wanting a lot of signage around the downtown. Mr. Kramer noted that many of the signs will either be placed on buildings or very close to a building, however there are some that will be out in the open. Mayor Mills questioned if this proposal has been approved by MnDOT. Willenbring stated nothing has been presented to them at this point. The committee is currently asking for approval from the Council to move forward with the project so they can move forward with the grant proposal. There is no request for approvals on specifics at this point. The requests presented right now is for the Council to approve the proposal to place these historic signs at public and private locations within the Village Center, with a specific signage plan to be approved later, to have the Council approve spending up to \$15,000 from the Village Center sign fund, that the City be the applicant for the grant proposal, and that the Council agree to install and maintain the signs on both public and private property. Willenbring recommends the Council approve the requests as presented. Miller has a concern that the Council keep in mind designs and uniformity. The original signage proposal made by Robin Brooksbank had a proposed design that matched what the City currently has. Miller also wants to make sure that committee members are not approaching community members and businesses making proposals on behalf of the City without the approval of the Council. Willenbring believes the Task Force is a way to help get the businesses together for many of these projects to help promote their businesses in lieu of a Chamber of Commerce. Pardun doesn't believe it is the City's place to promote the local businesses. The City can certainly support the businesses; however he is questioning if this is a way to have the City help promote the businesses through tourism. Mowery believes this is a way to promote the history of Marine, not to promote businesses. Mayor Mills doesn't believe we need a saturation of signs. Mowery noted that the proposal can be downsized. However, in order to apply for the grant there needs to be a plan with the locations decided. Anne Reich stated that the reason for this proposal was to inspire people passing through Marine to stop and learn about the history.

Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to approve the proposal dated September 13, 2016 as presented. There was discussion as to whether there is uniformity of signage and whether the Council is ready to approve a proposal for \$15,000 when there hasn't been time to really discuss the proposal. A suggestion was made to amend the motion to approve moving forward with the grant process not to exceed a certain amount. Willenbring and Mowery for, Miller, Pardun and Mills against. Motion failed.

Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded that the Council authorize up to \$2,000 to be used to prepare the grant and copyright material to then be reviewed by the City Council prior to submittal. Motion passed unanimously.

Dumpster Enclosures ó Dorothy Deetz reported that the grant application has been submitted for Block A. Dave Heiren, owner of several of the Lumberyard Shop condos, submitted a letter stating his concern for the proposal and is not in favor of the consolidation. Clerk Peterson noted that the Chocolate Shop is part of the Lumberyard Shops and not part of Marine Mills and therefore they contribute to garbage bill billed to the Lumberyard Shops as part of their Association. Dorothy believes that the 4 yard garbage and recycling dumpsters will accommodate all of the businesses. Pardun noted that at this point, if Mr. Heiren wants to have dumpsters and not participate in the consolidation, that is his right and if the City chooses to make Mr. Heiren move his dumpster to private property then the City will also have to force all of the other businesses in town to move their dumpsters also. Miller reiterated that he does not want to see citizen committees making policy on behalf of the City. Willenbring is going to stay in contact with Mr. Heiren to continue discussions. Willenbring and Pardun are also meeting with Matt Miller to discuss the Brookside dumpsters.

MarLa - Mary Burke was in attendance to report on upcoming events for the library and to request the annual bequest contribution. Mary noted that the library is celebrating five years of operation and will be hosting a birthday party on January 20th. The library is also now sending out quarterly newsletters with updates on events and information about the library.

Miller thanked the library board for all of their work and dedication.

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the request to Washington County in the amount of \$6,000 from the Jordan bequest.

Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to approve a one day liquor license for Marla for the November 19th fundraiser. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration ó A proposal was received from Atkins Association in the amount of \$6740 to draw up plans and specs for work to be done on the Village Hall. Atkins would be able to do the work this fall.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the investigation of the Village Hall exterior and report to Atkins Associations Inc per their proposal dated September 14, 2016 not to exceed \$6740. Motion passed unanimously.

Stormwater/Watershed ó Pardun reported that the Watershed has applied for another BWSR grant and should hear back by December of this year if it's approved. There is also money set aside for the corner of County Rd 4 and Highway 95 for the County Rd 4 project.

Millsite ó The boardwalk construct has started. Anne Reich thanked John Goodfellow for helping to prune all of the planted trees in the Millsite.

Green Step Cities - Anne Reiche is working with Chief Denn on the City's hazard mitigation plan. The last phase of earning step 3 is having the City pass a resolution regarding the purchase of energy efficient and recycled products.

Holidays ó No Report.

School Property ó A workshop was held with the City Council. Discussion was held on moving forward with an appraisal of the property and attorney fees for two meetings regarding the appraisal and the potential sale of the school property not to exceed \$50,000. The hope is to have a public meeting in December to discuss the process thus far.

Pardun moved Miller seconded to move forward with obtaining an appraisal of the school property and to authorize attorney fees to discuss the potential sale of the school property not to exceed \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar ó Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/8/16, Treasurer's Report of 9/16, List of Bills for 10/13/16, 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 foot stand exemption for the November 5th and 6th shotgun hunt. Motion passed unanimously.

Long/Short Term Goals ó No Report.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó .

Adjournment ó Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:54pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk