

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 10, 2011

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

Citizens Present: David Denn, Mary Skamser, Sherrill Reid, Dale Stull, Kevin Nyenhuis, Art Hage, Greg Johnson, Robin Brooksbank, Jack Warren, Everett Myers, Curt Moe, Sue Nordgren, Carl Nordgren, Harold Teasdale, Diane Mills, Tom Ellig.

Citizens Considerations –

Robin Brooksbank – MarLa Update – Ms. Brooksbank was in attendance on behalf of the Marine Library Association to discuss the pending Joint Powers Agreement and the role of the Library Association with respect to the library changes. Tom Triplet, MarLa member, has reviewed the latest Joint Powers Agreement and is very happy with the verbiage. He would like to see additional wording addressing any requests MarLa will have for funding from the Jordan bequest. Brooksbank also summarized the current understanding of the takeover. The County plans to be moved out by December 31st of this year. They will continue to provide the self checkout stations and approximately 2,000 books plus the locker system. The City will provide wireless internet service and the surround for the lockers, and Marla plans to provide a telephone line, the volunteers to work designated library hours along with managing various programs throughout the year, and would like to take over the cleaning of the bathrooms as a thank you to the City. MarLa is also requesting \$2,000 from the City to help with the renovation costs. Benson noted that the County will manage the Jordan bequest funds, however the City will have input as to how those funds are used. He suggested MarLa come up with a 5 year plan for use of those funds, which the City can then present to the County.

Sherrill Reid - Ms. Reid has three concerns for the Council. The first concern is the one way designation on Fifth Street by the church. She doesn't believe that intersection is dangerous and would like to see it changed back to a two way street. Ms. Reid stated she was also surprised to hear that chickens are not allowed in town and would like to see the code changed to allowed them in all zoning districts, and lastly is very concerned that there are certain residents in town feeding the deer. The City has sent letters to these residents advising them not to feed the deer, however the next step of enforcement is to contact Washington County. Reid suggested the City consider imposing an additional fee. The Council suggested adding something to the next newsletter as an educational piece to the residents to see if that helps.

Kevin Nyenhuis – Solar Energy Proposal – Mr. Nyenhuis was in attendance to present his proposal to place solar energy panels on the fire hall and upgrade the lighting in the Village Hall. The overall project cost would be \$24,532 however there is a \$10,800 rebate credit from Xcel Energy which would lower the cost to \$13,732. The average life span of the panels is 25 years, and there is a 10 year payback by using solar. There are also additional grant opportunities through the CERT's program which the City could also pursue. The Council was very receptive

to the idea and suggested this be considered in future budget discussions. Nyenhuis will move forward on the grant application on behalf of the City. If the grant is approved, there is no requirement for the City to use the money if the project does not fit into this budget cycle.

Tom Ellig – MN Historical Society – Mr. Ellig presented the proposed maintenance contract for the Mill Site property. The agreement covers 2012 and 2013 and will \$4500 each year to cover various maintenance costs.

Benson moved and Mowery seconded to accept the contract the Minnesota Historical Society for the Marine Mill Site maintenance as presented.

Planning Commission – The Commission is working on creating a storm water management plan, and will be meeting with Jim Shaver on December 6th to review the Watershed's plan.

Committee Reports –

Jackson Meadow – The annual Letter of Credit extension was due in October. Lake Elmo bank has renewed the letter of credit for an additional year. Teasdale questioned the possible release of that Letter of Credit, however Marker believes it should be maintained until after the wastewater issues are resolved and Teasdale agreed.

Marker moved and Benson seconded to approve the \$100,000 Letter of Credit through October 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety – The May Township Fire Contract is up for renewal. The proposal is for a 3% increase annually for 3 years.

Marker moved and Mowery seconded to approve the proposed Fire Contract for May Township as exists. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Denn reported on the current recruitment campaign for the ambulance. There has been little success so far, and the squad is discussing potential alternatives, one of which is converting to a First Responder service. In order to keep the current squad running, there is a need to acquire 10 new recruits enrolled in an EMT class by January 2012. There are currently 16 members on the squad, and some of those 16 are not available for on call or daytime runs due to living outside of the City limits. There will also be 4-6 current members leaving in the next few months. There is a new member orientation meeting this Saturday for the people who have indicated they are interested in joining. A contract has been drafted and reviewed by the City Attorney, which implements a one year minimum commitment. If that person would not maintain an "active" status within that one year period, they will be required to reimburse the City for all EMT training costs. If the department were to change to a First Responder service, that would allow both current ambulance personnel, along with Fire members to respond to a call with at least one EMT and the several First Responders. The level of patient care would remain the same, the only difference would be Marine would no longer transport the patient, but rather wait for Lakeview

or North ambulance. Chief Denn will continue to update on the status.

Roads - Miller advised he is working with MnDOT and MHS on the Mill Site identification sign. If this sign were approved, the City would be responsible for all maintenance/replacement costs in the future.

Personnel/Building Inspector – Jack Kramer’s contract expires December 31st of this year. Mr. Kramer would like to extend his contract with the City for an additional five years.

Marker moved and Miller seconded to approve a five year extension for Jack Kramer’s building inspector contract. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation – Mowery presented a motion to place a new trail on City property by the maintenance shed. This request was made initially by the trails committee, and it is proposed to begin on the west side of the property by Guslander and loop around to the east side. The committee is proposing to create and maintain this trail completely with volunteers. Benson appreciates the effort put forth by the trails committee, however believes the City is lacking an inventory of all the current trails within the City and who is responsible for the maintenance. He would like to see this rectified prior to adding any additional trails. Mowery agreed that the trails should be mapped and documented, however does not believe this proposed trail should be postponed until that happens. Marker agreed with Mowery, and thinks this trail is independent of the other trail issue. Miller would also like to see this trail postponed until a study has been completed of all current trails and a plan created for any future trails. Miller presented a draft moratorium to prohibit the creation of any new trails within the City until that study has been completed. Benson agreed that a comprehensive plan is needed for the entire trail system, and requested the trail committee postpone this trail until that has been done. Mayor Mills agreed with Benson and Miller’s request. He is concerned that this trail will be put in, and eventually additional trails will be added to that property without any input from the City, similar to what has happened with the Jackson Meadow trails. Mowery called to question the original motion to accept the proposed trail as described (attached). After further discussion, Mowery amended his motion to include that the proposed trail location be mapped by GPS and documented prior to the creation of the trail, and for review at the December Council meeting. Miller seconded the amendment. Miller also requested the proposed moratorium be added to the December agenda for discussion.

Mowery moved and Marker seconded that the Marine City Council allow the trails committee to clear a new recreational trail on City property. All labor to clear and maintain the trail will be done by volunteers from the Trails Committee and the community. The location of the proposed new trail will start on the north side of Guslander Trail approximately 400 feet north of the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Old Guslander Trail. It will then proceed in an east and north easterly direction to the border of William O'Brien State Park. The trail will then loop back into itself to create a continuous trail. The proposed location of the trail is flagged, and this flagged location will be mapped on GPS and documented prior to the creation of this trail, and will be presented to the Council by the next Council meeting. The trail will also create a

connection to the current trail easement through Mr. Masumoto's property that ends on the south side of Old Guslander Trail. Motion passed unanimously.

The trails committee has also agreed to have a comprehensive map of the current trail system put together by the March City Council meeting for review.

July 3rd Fireworks Contract – Northern Lighters Pyrotechnics has submitted a contract for the 2012 fireworks display, and is requesting a verbal contract through 2014 in order to maintain pricing.

Miller moved and Benson seconded to accept the 2012 contract with Northern Lighters Pyrotechnics, and to agree to a verbal three year commitment. Motion passed unanimously.

Easement Agreement for 575 Judd Street - Mowery requested that the City Attorney draft an easement agreement for the pedestrian walkway, which starts on Walker Street and runs diagonal across this property. This issue came up when Louise Mills still owned the property, and Everett Myers was the Council member working on getting this resolved, however it was never completed. The property has now been sold and the new owner would like to get this taken care of.

Mowery moved and Miller seconded to request Dave Snyder to draft an easement agreement for the pedestrian walkway at 575 Judd Street. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance – The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 6:00pm.

Hall/Restoration – The Joint Powers Agreement with Washington County has been presented to the City Council for the Marine Library. MarLa is looking to change the wording in regards to the Jordan bequest funds, however Benson believes the County has been very generous with the language thus far and is concerned that any additional changes proposed may jeopardize the negotiations. Benson would like to recommend the Council approve the agreement as is.

Marker moved and Benson seconded to accept the Joint Powers Agreement with Washington County as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.

Sprinkler System – Jason Crotty has contacted two companies to give a bid on replacing the tank for the sprinkler system at the Village Hall. The initial estimates could put the replacement cost somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Currently there is nothing in the budget for this type of expense, however there is \$16,000 allocated for Village Center Water in the Treasurer's report. Chief Denn has stated he would be willing to use this money for the tank replacement if the Council is willing to reallocate those funds.

Marker moved and Miller seconded to advise City staff to move forward with the tank replacement, and to reallocate the Village Center Water funds to pay for the project, not to exceed \$16,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery – No Report.

Village Center – Miller requested information on how the scope of the Village Center concept plan applies to other proposed City projects along with a cost projection. Benson replied that the Village Center committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss and define the steps needed to put the full plan into context.

Wastewater and Water Systems – No Report.

Consent Calendar – Miller questioned the \$90 check to Sherrill Reid for transporting a cat to the Humane Society. Ms. Reid's contract does include cat pick up, however the Council has had previous discussions with Ms. Reid stating they did not advocate picking up cats. Miller would like to hold this check and continue this discussion at the next Council meeting.

Miller moved and Marker seconded to approve the Minutes of 9/08/11 (No October Minutes), Treasurer's Report dated 9/11, 10/11, the List of Bills for 11/10/11 minus the \$90 check to animal control, Zoning Administrator's Report, Planning Commission Minutes (None), and the October Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business – None.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None.

Adjournment – *Miller moved and Marker seconded to adjourn at 10:04p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk