

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2015

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

Citizens Present: Jason Crotty, Tommy Boesel, Kevin Nyenhuis, Curt Moe, Tom Omdahl, Bill Ries, Susan Knapp, David Denn.

Citizens Considerations ó

Curt Moe ó Mr. Moe was in attendance to report on the Millsite activities. Still no word on the National Park Service kiosk, but they hope to have an update in January. Moe believes the installation should happen next summer. The MN Historical Society has given approval for the proposed trail system by the ruins. The trails have since been cleared and three bridges have been built. The hope is to have the entire trail system complete by Mill Stream Day. The project is being funded by a James Taylor endowment through the Historical Society. A memorial bench has been placed by one of the lower trails for Dan Boardman, and Tom and Zantha Warth will also be donating a bench in memory of their son at the top of the trail system.

Kevin Nyenhuis ó Mr. Nyenhuis gave an update on the Kerstmart. The permit has been filled out and everything is ready to go. A log cabin is being built in the park again this year, and the committee would like to leave the cabin up until after Christmas. Pardun noted the last time the cabin was left up for a long period of time after the event and there were citizen complaints. The Council consensus was that the cabin needs to be taken down by New Year's Day. Miller questioned if this event was a fundraiser. Nyenhuis noted it is run through the Mill Stream Association.

Planning Commission ó Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve Planning Case 1103115-01, a Conditional Use Permit for a bathroom in an accessory building. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety ó Chief Denn reported that several items were discussed at the last officer's meeting. One of those items was implementing a mandatory retirement age of 65 years old. Chief Denn would like to check with the League of MN Cities to make sure there are no legal issues. There will be some changes in the compensation plan. The implementation of the compensation has significantly improved training and inspection attendance, however there is still some work to be done on call response. The Department has also agreed to halt recruitment on new members unless they can be a part of the daytime response team. The Department is currently looking for replacement officers, specifically the Public Safety Chief. There may be a reorganization plan to help with this process. Chief Diane Mills is stepping down as Chief Officer after six years. She will continue to be on the squad however. Dan Malmgren has agreed to take over Chief Mills position. Captain Andy Lapos has also agreed to fill in as Deputy Chief Fire as Chief Johnson will be taking a winter leave of absence. The pumper committee has moved the pumper and hose reels into the new building. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony

in the spring. The Council questioned if the pumper is currently insured. Chief Denn stated that the estimate to get a professional appraisal would be around \$3,000 so as of right now, there is no insurance on the pumper. Pardun would like to authorize Chief Denn to spend no more than \$4,000 to get a professional appraisal. Pardun also wanted to note that May Township is paying just over \$181,000 for fire protection services in 2016.

Mowery moved and Miller seconded to appoint Dan Malmgren as the new Chief Deputy of EMS. Motion passed unanimously.

Mowery moved and Miller seconded to approve Andy Lapos as the Acting Deputy Chief Fire for Richard Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mowery moved and Miller seconded to approve Mary Moore, Christine Barbarias, Jami Philip and Marie Fornier as new probationary members of the Public Safety Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to authorize Chief Denn to find an appraisal company to give the City an appraisal on the pumper not to exceed \$4,000 contingent upon the League of MN Cities will provide insurance to cover that amount.

Roads - Jason Crotty was able to secure three bids for the dump truck through the State bidding contract. Crotty noted that the two best bids were through Western Star and Mack. Crotty would like to accept the bid from Mack for the Chasis and Towmaster for the box and equipment. The total bid for the Mack is \$136,791 which is slightly higher than the Western Star bid, however based upon customer service and serviceability, he believes this is the best option for the City. Delivery would be this time next year. The trade in value for the current truck would be \$29,500.

Miller and moved and Mowery seconded to accept the recommendation of City staff to accept the bid of a Mack truck with the Towmaster equipment in the amount of \$136,791.

Pardun noted that the next County Rd 4 open house is next Tuesday, December 15th at the Village Hall.

Ryan Goodman has submitted the engineering report. Bolton Menk has recommend accepting the bid for the soil boring project from Northern Technologies Inc. Miller noted that Braun Intertec was not the lowest bidder.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to accept Bolton Menk's recommendation to accept the bid for soil borings from Northern Technologies, Inc in the amount of \$4,925. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Building Inspector - *Pardun moved and Miller seconded to renew the Animal Control contract with Sherrill Reid for through December 31, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.*

Recreation ó Mowery met with staff from the DNR to discuss the Gateway Trail Extension. There are a few sections of private land that the DNR would like to use as part of the trail extension, and are hoping to make an agreement with those land owners. A few representatives of the DNR would like to attend the January meeting to update the Council on this issue. The hope is to connect the trail from Pine Point Park to William O'Brien State Park. Miller noted that past concerns of the Council was the additional traffic on the City trails and horse traffic. Mowery noted that there is currently no plan to extend the horse trail past Pine Point Park.

Finance ó Clerk Peterson presented the proposed 2015 Reserve Fund allocations, totaling \$165,500.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to set the 2016 levy at \$835,528.94 which represents a 6.39% increase over 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to approve the 2015 Reserve Funds as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery ó There is a Thrush that has made its way from California that is living in the cemetery and has attracted a lot of attention.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó No Report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó No Report.

MarLa - Miller reported there was board meeting this week. Marla is working on getting new board members in place for February. The 995 patrons that have visited the library does not include many of their program events. The Memorandum of Understanding has expired, and there will be a meeting between Miller and the new board members to re-visit the agreement and make any changes/updates. Miller thanked all of the volunteers for their work.

Hall/Restoration ó There has been some discussion as to the number of hall rental waivers given throughout the year versus the number of paying rentals. The City had approximately 29 events in 2015 of which 5 were paying rentals. The Restoration Society is currently looking at rewriting the hall rental agreement to address this issue and will be presented to the Council in January or February.

Stormwater/Watershed ó Pardun reported there was a raingarden meeting on December 1st. It was a good discussion and the residents involved are very excited about the project. The project will not cost the homeowner anything, however they are responsible for the maintenance for 10 years. If the homeowner decides within that 10 years they no longer want the raingarden and

remove it, they will be charged one and half times the cost of the raingarden.

Millsite ó No additional Report.

Green Step Cities ó No Report.

Holidays ó No Report.

Consent Calendar ó *Miller moved Mowery and seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/12/15, 12,8,15, Treasurers Report of 11/15, List of Bills for 12/10/15, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes (none). Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the renewal of the liquor license for the Brookside Bar and Grill and St. Croix Chocolate Company for 2016. Motion passed unanimously.*

Clerk Peterson presented the final contract between the City of Marine and Advanced Disposal for the contact period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

Miller questioned whether the Council would entertain the idea of the City creating an official facebook page. Currently there is an unofficial facebook page run by citizens, however there is some concern that all of the information posted in not factual. Pardun noted that the City staff will be working on getting the City website updated and believes having a facebook page is a lot of work and requires daily updating and monitoring and would like to just continue with the City website.

Delinquent Sewer and Garbage Certification - *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the delinquent garbage and sewer certification roll for 2015. Motion passed unanimously.*

Citizen of the Year ó Mowery would like to nominate Diane Mills. The Council will take any additional nominations until the January meeting.

Long/Short Term Goals ó

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó None

Adjournment ó *Mowery moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:21pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk