

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 11, 2014

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

Citizens Present: Kristina Smitten, Anne Reich, Scott Spisak, Ron Brenner, David Denn, Ryan Goodman, Mary Skamser.

Citizens Considerations ó

Kristina Smitten ó Green Step Cities Proposal ó Ms. Smitten was in attendance to give the Council background on the Green Step Cities program, as Councilmember Lusher is recommending the City join this program. Smitten advised this program is specifically designed for cities smaller in size. Currently there are 75 cities involved in the program. This is a free program that creates a pathway for sustainability and energy efficiencies. Marine would be considered a category C community, meaning it has the smallest size and smallest level of resources, therefor making the program requirement very modest. Smitten has worked with this program for several years, and is happy to be a resource to the City should it decide to become a part of the program.

Anne Reich, resident, has been involved with the City of Mahtomedi as a part of the Green Step Cities program. She believes this program is a win/win for our City and a great way to get the community involved. Pardun believes the City is already forward thinking when it comes to most of the ideas promoted by this program, and is concerned that this program just adds another layer that the City doesn't necessarily need. Smitten believes this program adds the technical tools for the projects and ideas the City already has, and just makes the overall process easier. Lusher believes the reason she was elected was to bring forth these types of ideas to the City and feels very strongly that the City should be a part of. It does not cost anything to join, and there are already community members who have offered to be a part of the committee. Pardun believes the City already has so many small group committees that haven't necessarily helped the City and still isn't sure this program would be a benefit. He would like to see Lusher present to the Council the names of the people interested in being a part of the committee and also a list of their ideas. Willenbring likes the idea of the program and believes it would help bring technical assistance and resources to the City we don't have access to now. Pardun would like to table this subject until Lusher comes back with the actual plan rather than pass a resolution now and then try to put together a committee. Smitten believes it would be disingenuous to put together a committee of people only to then present that to Council and have them decided they don't want to pursue this program. Mayor Mills agrees with Pardun, and is worried about potential conflicts with other groups such as the DNR, Park Service, Watershed, etc. Anne Reich pointed out that the Council has control over which best practices are chosen, so if there are items such as water quality that may cause conflict, then the Council can choose to pursue a different best practice. After further discussion Lusher made a motion to approve the proposed resolution.

Willenbring moved and Lusher seconded to accept Resolution 12114-01 as presented. Willenbring, Lusher and Mowery for. Pardun against. Motion passes.

.Kristina Smitten also thanked the City for supporting the Garrison Keillor event. As part of this event, the Bandstand park was decorated with trees and a log cabin and the library association would like to keep the decorations up throughout the holiday season. Pardun noted his only concern was that the last couple of years, the same style of decorations were put up and then there was significant snow and things were left up for an extended period of time so he would like to see things taken down right away if the same situation is anticipated. Mayor Mills requested advance notice in the future so the Council is aware.

Planning Commission ó Ron Brenner was in attendance to present a draft of the new variance procedure document as part of the Development Code review. The State has changed the rules regarding granting variances and the Commission would like to hold a public hearing to change the code for this specific item sooner than the rest of the code amendments in order to bring the City in compliance with current state rules. The Commission also developed a variance request checklist for each applicant, which will help the City and Commission ensure they have all the correct documentation from the applicant prior to presenting the request to the Commission.

Scott Spisak, new resident, has submitted a resume and a request to join the Planning Commission. Currently there are seven members, however Andy Creager will not be extending his term after December 31, 2014 so Mr. Spisak would replace Mr. Creager as the seventh member. Mr. Spisak was formerly with City of Stillwater Planning Commission for almost 4 years and has spent 25 years on the applicant side through his employment.

Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to renew the term for Joyce Ritz for one year and add Scott Spisak to the Commission for a three year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Village Center ó Next meeting will be in January, no date set yet. The Mill Site group has been working with the Historical Society on the signage for the landing behind the General Store and the group decided on "The Marine Village Landing" as the official name.

Committee Reports

Public Safety ó Mowery noted that the generator project is complete. Mowery also noted that Chief Denn is up for re-appointment.

A survey was mailed to all citizens in the community to get a feel for the town's demographics, potential membership, etc.

Mowery moved and Willenbring seconded to reappoint David Denn as the Chief of the Public Safety department for a two year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed the December Engineering Report. The Public works department has submitted their changes and comments for the O & M manuals, so Ryan will work to have the final document ready in January.

The survey of Judd Street was submitted and that survey showed the slope of that ditch is at a very low grade, although the cleaning of that ditch would provide some relief. If the Council chose to mitigate that area, the process would be very lengthy and undesirable. Ryan advised the City could still pursue a drainage ditch plan, which would be the best option. Pardun believes the City should follow through with applying for the permit, then once it's received then the City can discuss with the property owners.

County Rd 4 Project ó SEH was the engineering firm chosen for the County project, and they will be attending the January meeting to discuss the County Road 4 project and public comment meetings.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to declare the 2006 Chevy Pick Up and the Public Safety generator as surplus property and to accept sealed bids with a bid opening to be done at the February Council meeting.

Personnel/Building Inspector - .

Animal Control ó The Animal Control contract is up as of December 31st, however Pardun was not able to meet with Sherrill Reid before this meeting to discuss the contract. Ms. Reid has agreed to continue under the current contract until the January Council meeting. Mowery would like to see the requirement of having a law enforcement officer on site in order for the animal control officer to enter private property removed, and also would like clarification that she will only take a dog that has been contained.

Recreation ó No Report.

Finance ó The Truth in Taxation meeting was held December 3rd.

Pardun moved and Lusher seconded to set the 2015 levy at \$776,296.29, which represents a 2.95% increase over 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

2014 Reserve Funds ó Clerk Peterson presented the proposed 2014 Reserve Funds. Two additions proposed funds is the \$217,800 budget surplus amount allocated for County Rd 4. The other proposed fund is the fiscal disparity money.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to approve the 2014 Reserve Fund as presented and to authorize the City Clerk to purchase CD's. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration - Still no word on a timeline for the basement project. The Butch Thompson and Garrison Keillor events were a huge success.

Cemetery ó No report.

MarLa - No Report.

Stormwater/Watershed ó Pardun attended the last Watershed meeting, which was more of an advisory meeting to discuss upcoming projects. There is money in their 2015 budget that is to be used for the grant application. There may also be money available from this year to be used for the Judd St. project. Pardun also verified with Jim Shaver that the Watershed will be a part of the County Rd 4 project.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Replacing a pump and a step station on the south side of Judd Street.

Consent Calendar ó *Mowery moved and Willenbring seconded to approve the Minutes of 11/13/14, 12/3/14, Treasurers Report of 11/14, List of Bills for 12/11/14, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó Pardun is concerned with how many agenda items are not received until right before the Council meeting, and this makes it difficult for the Council to really get a chance to review the information and also for the Clerk's office to post an accurate agenda. Pardun is proposing a deadline of noon the Thursday prior to the Council meeting.

Pardun moved and Willenbring seconded that all requests, correspondence, communications, ordinances, resolution, contract documents or other matters submitted the City Council or Planning Commission shall be filed no later than 12:00pm noon five business days prior to the City Council or Planning Commission meeting at which consideration is desired, and shall be delivered to the City Clerk for inclusion in the proper order of business on the agenda. Any delivery of these documents made after the stated deadline will not be considered for action by the City Council or Planning Commission until the following regularly scheduled meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Brookside Liquor License - *Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the liquor license for the Brookside Bar and Grill for 2015. Motion passed unanimously.*

Lusher moved and Willebring seconded to certify the delinquent sewer and garbage charges as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Long/Short Term Goals ó No Report.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó Mayor Mills attended the Scenic Byway meeting in Taylors Falls. Highway 8 will be closed and rebuilt. MnDOT seemed open to putting a sign on MnDOT property for Marine's local businesses. Mayor Mills invited them to hold their next meeting in Marine to discuss.

Adjournment ó *Mowery moved and Willenbring seconded to adjourn at 9:06pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk