

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, March 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Mowery (7:48), Willebring and Miller present.

Citizens Present: Gerry Mroska, Ryan Goodman, Bill Smitten, Tom Warth, Tom Boesel, Frank Ticknor, Page Holmquist, Emily McGuire, John Goodfellow, Kevin Peterson, Mike Tibbetts, Jim Shaver, Scott Spisak, Mary Skamser, Robin Brooksbank, Bill Ries, Patrick McCarthy, Bill Maher, Kristen Vandheim, Megan Kavanagh, Peter Fernstrum, Kyle Johnson, Tammy Newcomb, Kevin Nyenhuis, Wendy Ward, Gayle Knutson, Karol Sullivan.

Citizens Considerations ó

County Road 4 Project Proposal ó Frank Ticknor, Washington County, presented a powerpoint presentation reviewing the details of the proposed County Road 4 project. Mr. Ticknor then reviewed the hybrid proposal in detail. One concern of residents is the removal of trees. The County noted that the use of curb would reduce the number of trees impacted, and the County will work with each individual homeowner on the specifics.

Tom Warth questioned removing the grass strip along Broadway and is concerned it will take away from the character of the village. Ticknor noted there will be a 5 foot boulevard and the details can be tweaked during the final design.

Bill Ries questioned where the stormwater will go. Mr. Ticknor pointed out several stormwater basins that are being proposed along zones 2 and 3. Some of the proposed locations are on private property, so the County will be talking to those property owners about possibly acquiring that property.

Karol Sullivan is concerned about the potential increase of pavement height during the construction. The County will grind down the current pavement prior to adding the new pavement which will eliminate much of that increase.

Bill Smitten questioned if the piece of road from the church to Highway 95 will be asphalt or if the County would consider rilled concrete to help with safety. Mr. Ticknor thought that was a great idea and will consider that option.

Wendy Ward questioned if a tree inventory will done. The County will hire an arborist to write up a report of the current trees in place and also suggestions for tree replacement.

Mike Tibbetts doesn't believe County Road 4 has a standing water issue and doesn't believe that the road is in bad shape. He also noted that there have not been any studies done to show that the

amount of sediment being removed is significant enough amount to affect the Millstream. He believes the environmental impacts are very important and there is no evidence that there is any hazard to the Millstream.

Jim Shaver noted that the City has participated in studies on the Millstream that have recommendations showing the opposite of what Mr. Tibbetts is saying.

Mike Tibbetts noted that a petition was signed by the residents along Broadway Street in Zone 2 stating that are requesting strictly a pavement restoration be done in Zone 2 and that the City not move forward with the proposed plan. Mayor Mills noted that a pavement restoration does not address the water issues along that stretch. Willenbring stated that he and Pardun are part of the project team for the project and they reviewed the resident petition at length. The difficulty now is balancing the loss of trees versus the residents objection of curb and gutter. The goal tonight is to pass the resolution of support which will then allow the County to work out many of those design details. Willenbring also looked at long term impacts of a pavement restoration versus a complete reconstruction and the project team believes the reconstruction would be best solution for the City in the long run.

Mayor Mills read a letter submitted by Win Miller, resident, stating that he prefers a pavement restoration, however would support the reconstruction of the road by using curb and gutter if that would help preserve trees.

Mike Tibbetts and Megan Kavanagh requested that each Council member come and walk that stretch to see the actual impact of the project.

Bill Ries noted that he and several neighbors would also favor the pavement restoration over the reconstruction.

Mayor Mills presented two Resolutions, the first supporting the County Rd 4 reconstruction and the second providing support of the County Rd 4 reconstruction project.

Robin Brooksbank commended the Council and County on the process for this project.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve Resolution No. 160310-01 supporting the County Road 4 reconstruction project as it relates to the Marine on St. Croix Historic District. Willenbring, Pardun and Miller for, Mowery against. Motion passed.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve Resolution No. 160310-02 providing municipal support of the County Road 4 reconstruction project. Willenbring, Pardun and Miller for, Mowery against. Motion passed.

Mayor Mills called a recess at 8:06pm and called the meeting back to order at 8:08pm

Planning Commission ó Chairman Mroska reported on the February meeting. Still working on the

zoning definitions and the solar ordinance. Currently working on the Tim Pabst request for a possible subdivision of his property on Broadway St.

Public Safety ó Chief Denn submitted a written report. Training is ongoing with Pine Tech College. New turnout gear was ordered for the new members, 5-7 sets at \$2000 per set. This amount is included in the 2016 budget. The antique pumper museum dedication, along with the appreciation dinner will be held on April 10th with an ice cream social and dedicated ceremony at 1:00pm. Mayor Mills will be presenting a proclamation at that dedication. Mike Tibbetts noted there are several dead redwood trees in the Hollow that could be milled and used as flooring in the new museum.

The appreciation dinner will be April 10th at 5:00pm at Dunrovin Retreat Center.

Roads - Willenbring thanked Ryan Goodman for keeping the city's cost participation at a minimum with the County Rd 4 project. There will be a meeting next Tuesday with Willenbring, Pardun, the City Engineer and the Public Works department to review the pavement cores and see how those align with the CIP.

Ryan Goodman reported that the City was notified by the Department of Health that there will not be a water supply plan required as previously thought.

Goodman also updated the Council on the various MnDOT road projects both to the north and south of the City which will result in traffic delays and detours. There will be major projects happening in Forest Lake, Highway 8 and also south in Stillwater with the bridge construction.

Ryan presented a request to move forward with creating plans and specs for the upcoming seal coat and crack filling project.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to authorize Bolton Menk to go out for plan and specifications to obtain quotes for seal coat and crack filling. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation ó John Goodfellow presented a powerpoint on the Emerald Ash Borer, which is quickly destroying many trees around the state. Marine currently has 11 Ash trees within the downtown area, the most significant being the large Ash tree located across the post office next to the Monfort Dunn bench. There is no evidence that the insect is currently here, however it is known that it will be here for sure in the next couple of years. If a tree is infected, there will be a 100% mortality rate if no action is taken. There is time to consider options, whether those are replacing the trees with a different species or moving forward with a treatment plan. Treatment costs vary based upon the tree size and length of protection. The Monfort Dunn Ash would be \$350 for a two year protection plan. If the City had to remove that particular tree, that cost would be \$1200. Miller suggested looking into some type of landscape plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. Willenbring suggested adding a line item to the budget in August.

Finance ó No Report

Cemetery ó No Report

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Ryan Goodman presented the proposed Wellhead Protection Plan for Jackson Meadow. MN Rural Water Association has completed the plan for the City, which saves the City having to hire a consultant.

There was a force main break at the lift station behind the General Store, however it has been contained.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Wellhead Protection plan for the Jackson Meadow Water system as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó There is an effort to get a grant for local businesses to be used towards solid waste and recycling.

MarLa - The Oscar party was very successful along with the documentary series.

Hall/Restoration ó Still waiting for someone to come and look at the rot on the outside of the Village Hall.

Stormwater/Watershed ó Currently working with the individual homeowners on the raingardens.

Millsite ó The trails continue to be improved.

Green Step Cities - Ann Reich submitted a summary report. The improvements done in the hall with the furnances and lighting replacement will be entered into the Green Step Cities program and help in working towards the second step.

There is a Solar Power Hour presentation on Thursday, April 7th from 7pm ó 8pm to educate residents on the benefits of solar energy.

Holidays ó No Report.

Consent Calendar ó *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Minutes of 2/11/16, Treasurer's Report of 2/16, List of Bills for 2/11/16, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó

Proposed School Moratorium ó Pardun reported that the School Board voted to close the three proposed schools on March 3rd and so now he would like the City to put a moratorium in place

in order to allow input by the City as to what will go in that space prior to the School Board make any decisions. The City can impose an 18 month timeline on this moratorium to give the City time, however Pardun would like to impose this sooner rather than later. Dave Snyder stated that if the Council delays the passing of the moratorium, it extends the time period further into 2017 when there is a potentially higher risk of the school district taking action, however if the Council does not trust the school board will wait prior to making a move with the property then it should consider acting now. Snyder also questioned whether the Council would like to try and engage the board in discussions prior to adopting anything. Mowery questioned if one member of the Council should attend a school board meeting to engage the board on this issue. Snyder stated he would not advise against that proposal. Miller likes the idea of adopting the moratorium to make a statement to the school board and superintendent. Mayor Mills emailed Superintendent Pontrelli to advise her that the City would potentially be interested in purchasing that property in the future and requested a copy of the appraisal and any supporting documentation. Superintendent Pontrelli responded, saying she would be happy to maintain discussions with the City in the event the district should decide to sell. Miller stated he does not trust the district to follow through given the history of this issue. Willenbring supports the moratorium but is concerned about the timing and which group of people will undertake the task and lead the charge if we pass this right now. The district will have to make some type of public movement prior to doing anything with that property and believes the Council should have a plan in place at the time the moratorium is passed. The one issue is that property was zoned residential after the school obtained the property and there is concern that there are some federal and state protections that may allow other uses than what the code currently allows. There is also a question as to whether that is something the City would want to buy and where those funds would come from. Mowery noted that charter schools can be a risky proposition and would caution the City in purchasing that property for a charter school without a detailed plan in place. Robin Brooksbank questioned if the school board has to approve the sale of the property or if the administration can move forward. Snyder stated it would have to be a board decision. Mowery asked the City Attorney what he thinks the risk would be by waiting an additional 30 days. Snyder doesn't think there is much of a risk, but also thinks a letter should be sent to the board and superintendent advising them that the Council is considering a moratorium and would like to engage in discussions. Willenbring questioned if changing the zoning would be considered spot zoning, which the City cannot do. Snyder stated re-zoning that parcel would not be considered spot zoning because the City would be re-zoning the property based upon its historical use, which is allowed. The Council agreed that a letter would be the first step and then next month would like to see a plan as to how would be on the committee working on this issue prior to passing a moratorium. Miller commended Cindy Jepson on her lobbying work right now within the house and senate on this issue. Willenbring suggest the Mayor call a special meeting to enact the moratorium if the school board decided to move forward faster than anticipated.

Board of Review Meeting ó Tuesday April 12th at 9:00am.

Long/Short Term Goals ó No change

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó No Report.

Adjournment ó Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:41pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk