

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Mowery, 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 Skamsner, 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

Fitzie Heimdahl ó Mr. Heimdahl was in attendance on behalf of the Restoration Society to present a proposal to perform excavation work on the historic bridge under Judd Street across from the Mill Pond. That bridge is believed to be the oldest bridge in the State of Minnesota. Mr. Heimdahl would like to uncover the bridge and see what the condition of the bridge and then moving forward begin potential restoration of the bridge. The City has been saving money for the restoration of that bridge, and is okay with the initial uncovering, however would like to make sure there is silt fencing used.

Osceola Train Request ó The train would like to bring in about 280 people again for July 3rd fireworks. They will provide volunteers to help with setup the day of and also the morning after to help with cleanup. There were some issues with the bus pickup and drop off last year because the sheriff would not allow the buses to pick people up by the downtown area. Dorothy Deetz explained the route the buses should be taking to help avoid any issues. It would help if the people would be willing to walk back to the church and get picked up there. The train will pay \$200 to help with the cost again this year.

Barbara Dacy ó Washington County HRA ó Ms. Dacy was in attendance to request the City Council consider adopting a resolution to enable the HRA to conduct economic development activities in partnership with County cities and townships. Ms. Dacy presented the background of the HRA and its role within the communities. Miller questioned if this program is strictly for Washington County. This is for just Washington County however there is some partnering with the greater twin cities communities. Willenbring questioned how small towns benefit from this program. Ms. Dacy believes the value to the small towns comes with providing additional staffing for collaboration and finding resources within other agencies and communities. Pardun questioned whether there is a way for the City to disengage from this program after it signs on if it feels it is not a good fit for the City. Ms. Dacy advised there is not. The Council will review the resolution and discuss at the May meeting.

Brandon Helm ó MN DNR ó Mr. Helm was in attendance on behalf of the DNR to discuss the Gateway trail. The DNR would like to schedule a walk through with Council members to walk some of the property within the City designated for the trail extension. Miller and Mowery volunteered to participate in the walk through. The purpose will be to look at the property and see what area makes sense to run the trail through based on landscape etc. The extension committee and DNR have begun talks with some of the properties owners to discuss obtaining easements, etc. Willenbring questioned how the trail will cross the railroad tracks. There is a potential corner on the southwest corner of one of the properties that may be an option, otherwise the other option would be a tunnel under the tracks.

Planning Commission ó Chairman Mroska updated the Council on the March meeting. Still working on the zoning code updates and a solar ordinance. Scandia currently has a moratorium on solar and the Chairman suggested we continue to watch that closely. The Pabst property still has no resolution. The City will wait to see if Mr. Pabst wants to pursue a variance or not.

Public Safety ó Willenbring read a written report from Chief Denn, who is out with an injury. The antique pumper dedication went very well with approximately 150 people in attendance. Pine Tech College has missed several training sessions and the department has terminated its contract with Pine Tech. Fire conditions are high, and should be about three weeks before the restrictions are lifted. Willenbring questioned if there is speciality lighting to accent the pumper or mural on the back wall. There are two sets of lights inside, both recessed and hanging, that will be on a timer to help illuminate the inside. Miller publicly thanked Tom Quist and John Hoffman for donating the signage and mural. The City Clerk will send a formal thank you to both.

Roads - The City Engineer has prepared a formal Roads Capital Improvement Plan for the Council's consideration. Ryan Goodman presented the corresponding map showing road conditions, along with the timeline for each construction project. The bike trail project has been broken out into a separate project in hopes of getting that project done sooner. This project could be tied to another street project and the cost could be reduced significantly. Miller thanked everyone for their work on this project.

No project management meeting for County Rd 4 since the March meeting.

Pardun is looking at the downtown property owned by MnDOT and would like to really get a good idea of the area and know exactly where the road right of ways and property lines are. Landmark would perform a boundary survey for \$3900.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Roads Capital Improvement Plan as prepared by the City Engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to have Landmark Surveying prepare a boundary survey for the downtown Marine area for the cost of \$3900. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Building Inspector - Assistant City Clerk Philip has been researching ways to improve the City website. There will be a redesign cost and cost to own the website. The new website would be marineonstcroix.org. The Council will also be receiving city email addresses to avoid having to use personal emails.

Recreation ó The parks have been cleaned up and ready for spring.

Finance ó No Report

Cemetery ó No Report

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Reviewed the maintenance report. Jason Crotty will be working with the City Engineer to bring work on a Wastewater CIP.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó Dorothy Deetz, resident, is working on reducing the waste within the Village Center and is currently involved in the SEED program. This program is to help businesses increase recycling efforts, and is giving away grants up to \$10,000 per business to help with these efforts. Currently all of the local businesses have signed on to this program. This program will work with each business to write the grant and help with obtaining enclosures, etc. Part of this program will bring in compostable bins and potentially compactors. MnDOT will also allow the Brookside to build their enclosures on the state property.

The committee meetings will start up again on the last Wednesday of the month. The group would like to begin work on the signage project again, and also work on increasing the volunteer numbers by assigning subcommittees.

MarLa - Mary Burke was in attendance on behalf of MarLa. The library committee will begin to have a representative at each Council meeting moving forward. The library will be adding new books to the collection, and there will be a poetry crawl at the end of this month.

Hall/Restoration ó Jane Powell was in attendance on behalf of the Restoration Society to update the Council on upcoming projects. The Progressive Dinner will be held on June 4th, and there is working being done to get bids on painting and siding replacement on the Village Hall.

Stormwater/Watershed ó The committee met to discuss the raingarden project, and a raingarden was added to the project list for Councilman Mowery. The raingarden locations for all the projects are currently being figured out, and installation should begin around the August or September timeline. The next meeting will be April 20th.

Millsite ó No Report.

Green Step Cities - No Report

Holidays ó No Report.

Consent Calendar ó *Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to approve the Minutes of 3/10/16, Treasurer's Report of 3/16, List of Bills for 3/15/16, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó Marine Elementary School Moratorium. ó The Stillwater School Board approved a proposal back in March to close three elementary schools, of which Marine Elementary was included. Since that time, the City has sent correspondence to the administration and board requesting information and requesting some sort of meeting with the administration to discuss options, of which the City has received no response. At this point, the Council believes its only course of action is to pass the moratorium in order to give the City time to evaluate its options. This decision by the district will have a major impact on the City. A question was raised as to whether the Council can push this out a couple of months. The Council has already pushed this out three months, and there is no guarantee that the school board will not act on that property in the meantime. Bill Ries questioned if the Council might consider delaying the moratorium given the proposal to the school board to put a stay on any actions relating to BOLD moving forward until after the legal issues are resolved later this summer. Dave Snyder noted that the proposal was presented at the Board meeting this evening, however the belief is that the Board will not vote to approve the stay and any plans by the administration will continue to move forward. Willenbring has some concerns over the timeline and that the committee has goals in mind for short term expectations.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to put in affect Ordinance No. 145, an interim ordinance protecting the planning, process and the health, safety and welfare of city residents, and establishing a temporary moratorium on specified activities relating to the Marine Elementary School property and improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

Long/Short Term Goals ó Add School Board committee.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó No Report.

Adjournment ó Miller moved and Mowery seconded to adjourn at 8:56pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk