

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

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

Citizens Present: Pat Pardun, Mike Aspergren, Rich Burton, Anne Reich, Dorothy Deitz and Gerry Mroska.

Mayor Mills asked for a moment of silence to honor the anniversary of September 11.

Citizens Considerations ó

Dorothy Dietz - Dorothy was present on behalf of the steering committee for 175th anniversary to report the picnic was an incredibly successful event. Dorothy also wanted to recognize the city staff for all they do and thanked them.

A poster will be donated to the Restoration Society to be hung in the Village Hall.

There will also be a New Year's Eve celebration to cap off the 175th celebration events and the committee is looking for volunteers.

Dorothy also recommended that Linda Tibbetts be considered for Citizen of the Year.

Rich Burton ó Friends of the Scandia Parks and Trails ó Mr. Burton noted he was present at a Council meeting a few months ago and presented the idea of bringing a bike trail signage for a route that starts in Scandia and goes through Marine with the placement of arrows on County roads signs and some bigger signs at the entrances to the City of Marine. The question was if the council would accept the signage. At that time there were concerns regarding the width of the road and the liability to having signs on the county road from Broadway through the tunnel. Mr. Burton stated the County responded to him that the improvement of the road will only be the surface and it would not be widened in that area.

Willenbring is concerned with the safety of the bicyclist or pedestrians on a road that has no dedicated shoulder or white line for their use.

Ryan Goodman the city engineer also noted the city would not be complying to design standards if it was permeated through MN DOT or Washington County. Without the clear zones we would be encouraging bicyclist or pedestrian to use the drive lanes because there are no shoulders available. Ryan also noted that once the County Road 4 project development starts this could be one of the goal setting portions of the project. Does the city want the widened to accommodate a bike trail? Mr. Goodman also noted there would be some ditching efforts in that area because of water issues on the road.

Sally Swanson, Council member from Scandia and of the supporter of Friends of the Scandia Parks and Trails commented on the liability of the city and how the City of Scandia has also discussed similar situations and believes and according to an attorney it would be very hard to make the city liable because bicyclist and pedestrians use the roads anyway.

Mowery felt that this would be something we should contact the Marine City attorney to confirm what is best for the City of Marine.

Willenbring stated that regardless of the liability, if an unfortunate incident occurs it doesn't matter, some people may see the signs marketed as a bike route and could assume they are safe because of the markings. Willenbring also supports linking the trails, supporting the usage and to enjoy the beauty of the trails however he has reservations.

Mr. Burton noted when he entered into establishing bike routes the County engineer at that time, indicated "all roads in the County are considered bike routes and therefore the signs have been removed." Mr. Goodman added to that statement "where the shoulders are available" indicating what has been written in emails.

Willenbring pointed out all the trails the city of Marine promotes including the trail that is a dedicated path on Hwy 95, the trail by the school that includes low speed, residential and a non-thoroughfare compared to a high speed County highway. Willenbring recommended waiting until the design has been finalized from the tunnel into Broadway to decide if it is wide enough to put a bike trail there and if the community would like to pay for that.

Mayor Mills questioned if the City of Marine has any say to attaching signs to the County signs. Mr. Goodman felt the county would support the decision the city makes in the regards to signs.

Willenbring suggested working with William O'Brien State Park to get a trail through their property and off the roadway and enjoy trail rather than worrying about the traffic and stated he would work with Mr. Burton to get the trail off the road.

The work on the road will begin in 2016. The design of the road improvement should be designed sometime this winter and early spring. The city should have more information regarding the improvements and the intent of the roads in that area within the next couple of months. There will be a public information meeting sometime this fall and that would be a good time to provide input.

Mayor Mills noted Mr. Burton could contact the City Clerk, Lynette Peterson in a few month regarding any updates and plans.

Kristina Smitten ó Green Step Cities Proposal ó Council member Lusher introduced Kristina Smitten give an overview of what the Green Step Cities program is about and share what the obligations to the city would be. Lusher is hoping the City of Marine will also join. Sally

Swanson was also present from the City of Scandia to share what Scandia has done.

Smitten noted she is present as a former steering committee member of the Green Step Cities program. The GreenStep Cities program was coordinated by the MPCA back in 2007 and it was part of the next generation energy act. The legislation asked state agency to come together and create a framework for cities to follow to better meet their energy goals in the future. GreenStep Cities was developed with input from experts to provide cities with a path of Best Practices. There are 28 best practices and within those 28 there are 144 actions to help achieve the goals. It is a sustainable focused program. The 5 areas that are emphasized are, Buildings and lighting, land use, transportation and environmental management, economic community development. The idea is to support cities goals for doing things that are more thoughtful as it relates to energy. Each Best Practice has a technical advisor. It is a State wide program to allow cities who do not have staff to work on the issues at a city level. Currently there are 70 cities in the state. Smitten also noted the Metropolitan Council on the next round of the Comprehensive Plan updates does include GreenStep Cities. It is something they want to see cities doing. Once the city decides to become a GreenStop city there are 4 steps. The first step is to adopt a resolution stating the city will participate and focus on the best practices, the second step is to accomplish a certain number of best practices. The city of Marine would need to complete 4 best practices to become a step 2 city. The work the city has already implemented would be enough to make them a step 2 city. Smitten reviewed the list and figured there are already 15 that have been accomplished and 22 that are being accomplished and believes the city may already be considered a step 2 or even a step 3 city.

Mary Lusher has been in contact with residence that is in support of the program.

Smitten also noted there does need a committee and a champion because of the administration work and some annual reporting that is involved.

Sally Swanson also noted there is no fee to join and there is no obligation to continue. There is also some staff time that is involved.

The council would like to review more information regarding the GreenStep Cities program before making any resolutions and will revisit at the October council meeting. There is a website with more information.

Garbage Complaint letter: Mayor Mills indicated there was a formal letter received from a concerned citizen regarding the failure of the garbage company. Willenbring questioned the cost savings. Mowery noted there was a significant decrease to each resident and commercial businesses and it helped to lower the levy at that time. The consensus of the Council is to work with the local company to improve service. Willenbring will work with clerk Peterson in contacting the garbage company and will also contact the concerned citizen.

Planning Commission ó Chairman Mroslo was present and noted there has not been any activity from any resident at the meeting. The Planning Commission continues working on the

Development Codes. A special meeting was held in August to work on the codes along with updating the processes for a Variance and Conditional Use Permit request procedures. Mroska also noted the continuation of workshops until the codes process has been wrapped up.

Village Center ó No meeting in August. If anyone wants to read the information from last meeting there was a lot of information. It could also help with understanding the Greenstep Cities program. There will be a committee meeting coming up at the end of September before the next council meeting.

Public Safety ó Art Fair preparation will be in full force next week with it being the Art Fair. There will joint training on Monday September 15.

Antique Pumper Update: Bill Ries noted that the funding was setup with the help of the Mill Stream allowing them to setup an account with them. The Mill Stream is a 501.3(c) and therefore the donation to be tax deductible. The fundraising has been going well over the last week and a half where they have raised over \$3,500 dollars committed in cash. Material had been donated from people when the process was started however since that time positions have change and the materials are no longer available so they are working on re-establishing those contacts. According to Mr. Ries, the committee has chosen the preferred site location to be behind the Stone House museum because they believe this would be the best place for the long term history and the good of the city. Stakes have been place if anyone is interested in looking at the location. The site will be even with the south wall of the museum. The existing driveway on the north side of the building will be used to enter and exit the building. The blueprint that was drawn of the building by Tod Drescher last December shows a bank of walls that face the museum and the doors will be custom made to look like the doors on the front of the Village Hall where the pumper originally was stored. There will also be a stone knee wall around the base of the building and cedar shakes to match the stone of the museum. The only change is that the door will be opening to the north.

Willenbring mentioned he works closely with MN Historical Society and wondered if a possible location could be on the historic Mill Site property? He would be willing to work with the Historic Society if that was an option. Mr. Ries thanked Willenbring for the generous offer however they only considered sites that were owned by the City of Marine and usable to them.

Ries felt if everything went well with fundraising and acquiring the materials that the building could be completed and the pumper could be in its new home by Thanksgiving or worst case would be in the spring.

The concerns Mayor Mills and the council have is the funding, maintenance in the future and when would the building be constructed. Currently Washington County would still be interested in the pumper.

After further discussion the consensus of the City Council was to set a date of March 31, 2015 to have all the funding, materials and plans in place to house the pumper.

Chief Denn questioned the idea of storing the pumper over the winter to help protect the work that just went into cleaning it up and to remove it from the maintenance building. Mayor Mills suggested checking with William O'Brien State Park where there are some buildings with nothing in them. Pardun will look into the cost of insurance rider if the storage became available.

Assistant City Clerk Tomnitz will include information regarding the fundraising effort for the pumper in the 2014 fall quarterly newsletter if the information is received by September 15, 2014.

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed his Engineering Report.

County Road 4 Regional Drainage Study: Ryan Goodman stated the county has not brought on a consultant yet however it was part of the meeting that included MN Dot, Washington County Conservation District, Carnelian Marine Watershed District, Washington County Public Works and Ryan on behalf of the city to discuss any drainage issues that were known including how the drain study was going to be conducted, the tentative schedule to get a consultant on board and the early stages of product development and public open houses. Washington County has taken the lead on the drainage study however the door is still open if the Watershed District or the City would like to participate in a regional study which has been a topic over the last few years. If the city is looking to have study at this time the county was looking for participation and a percentage basis from the Watershed and the City and they would expand outside its project boundaries. Goodman noted the Watershed district has agreed to participate financially however would need board approval, the Conservation District would use staff time that they have already budgeted and MN Dot include staff time. Goodman recommended if the city moved forward to not exceed 10% with a clause not to exceed a certain dollar amount. The Conservation District brought to the table discussions regarding the concerns of wetland areas to the County road 4 area and the impacts on the type of wetland. Other topics the city has brought up is dredging the Mill pond and now would be the time with all the equipment that is in the area on site. If the city was to go and get additional quotes it would be considered specialized work. The County is in the process of putting together the scope of the work for the RFP so they know who to get their proposals from.

Willenbring stated he is upset that he was not invited and specifically excluded from the meeting. Willenbring noted that he wants to be invited to these meetings. Willenbring is the point person for the city. Mr. Goodman will follow up and convey to the county that the city of Marine should be involved.

Goodman acknowledged shortly there will be a public open house and thought the Council should set up a goal setting meeting after that to consider the expectation of the project development. Some of the things to consider are the roadway risks, buried power lines, sidewalk improvements, lift station improvements, street scape, landscaping, lighting, decorative concrete, curbing, ditches, regional drain study, on street and no street parking and pond dredging to name a few. The council agreed to participate in 10% of the Regional Drainage Study however Willenbring

felt the scope should be more defined in the region. Mr. Goodman will relay to the county the city is willing to participate in a 10% of the Regional Drainage Study that would include everything that is in interest to the City of Marine. After the city reviews the study a decision can be made on the dollar amount.

Pickup Truck/Skid Steer Quotes - Jason Crotty explained he received 2 quotes, one from Polar Chevrolet and one from Auto Nation which is Ford. Dodge had not responded after repeated attempts. Crotty recommended the quote from Polar Chevrolet for the price stated in the quote for \$24,031.15 noting the significant difference in the quotes from Ford.

Crotty also noted the Plow quote from Truck Utilities Inc will be rolled into 2015 and is not part of the approval at this time.

The quote for the Skid-Steer includes the verbiage of the five year information regarding the buyback program at the bottom of the quote that was discussed at last month's meeting. *Willenbring moved and Lusher seconded to accept the bids as presented by Jason for the Chevy truck and the Bobcat. Motion passed unanimously.*

Crotty indicated the road salt contracts will be coming out this month, they had been delayed because of a relocation.

Personnel/Building Inspector ó The city has received a complaint regarding a barking dog from a concerned citizen. Pardun has made several attempts to reach the citizen and has been unsuccessful however will continue to reach out.

Animal Control ó No report.

Recreation ó Mowery is working with Gerry Mroska regarding the volunteers on the Jackson Meadow trails and opening communications. Mowery is going to contact St. Paul regarding the Battle Creek cross country ski trails that are maintained by volunteers to see how the process is handled and run for liability purposes. Mroska noticed the Snow Mobile Association grooming trails that are located on public and private properties and checked on their website and found cooperation with landowners for them to groom their property. Mroska will continue to reach out for more information.

Pardun noted there was a service day scheduled to stain the ice rink. Thirty or so volunteers from Christ Lutheran Church helped stain the ice rink and donated mulch in the school forest.

The Cyclo Cross race has a preliminary date of October 5th this year. Chris Mowery will confirm the date.

Finance ó Pardun acknowledged the audit was completed and good.

Willenbring has not received any feedback from Stuart Krahn in Jackson Meadow regarding the

proposed \$5,000 that the council had figured into the budget for 2015 for the water reserve fund. Willenbring suggested the council add the \$5,000.00 to the proposed 2015 budget if Jackson Meadow Homeowners Association was not going to cover that money as they did last year. The council could then make changes at the Truth and Taxation meeting if the funds became available from Jackson Meadow at that time.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded that the maximum levy for the proposed 2015 budget be set at \$781,798.29, which is an increase over 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall/Restoration ó Mills noted there has been some activity regarding the Village Hall project however his attempts to contact the Restoration Society have not been successful.

Cemetery ó Jan Stull, resident, has met with Jason Crotty and Lon Pardun regarding the planting improvement around the green building. Crotty noted he was ok with the plans however she looking for an approval. The stump has been removed and the bench could be removed until she is done. Pardun will contact Mrs. Stull to give her the approval.

MarLa - No Report.

Ryan Goodman noted the Technical Evaluation Panel for the Judd Street mitigation is scheduled for September 17, at 2:30pm on site.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó Jackson Meadow has had the well inspected and is included in the maintenance report. The lift station is done and will receive delivery on Monday. Web Electric will get it mounted and make the changes next week weather permitting.

Consent Calendar ó Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 7/10/14, Treasurers Report of 7/14, List of Bills for 8/14/14, Zoning Administrators Report-none, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes excluding the regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2014 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business ó

Stand Exemption for William O'Brien Deer Hunt. The city has an ordinance that requires a deer hunter to be positioned a minimum of five feet off the ground.

Pardun moved and Mowery seconded to approve an exemption for William O'Brien State Park for the 5 foot deer stand requirement during their special hunt on November 15th and 16th, 2014

Long/Short Term Goals ó No Additions or corrections.

Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to thank all the people from the 175th Anniversary Committee and an appreciation letter signed by the City Council given to all the volunteers. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó Mayor Mills has information on the Log House Landing petition if anyone is interested.

Andrew Brown sent a letter regarding the sale of Wilder Forest land to the foundation that controls Warner Nature Center.

Adjournment ó *Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to adjourn at 9:15p.m. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Mary Tomnitz, Assistant City Clerk