

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 25, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 6:02pm. Pardun, Miller and Willenbring (6:20pm) present. Mowery absent.

Citizens Present: David Denn, Jason Crotty,

Mayor Mills opened the meeting for the purpose of discussing the 2016 proposed budget. Clerk Peterson reviewed the budget line items.

Discussion was held on how to use the fiscal disparity money. The Council liked the idea of keeping the money as a designated line item and then decide throughout the year what project(s) to use that money towards.

The Council reviewed the Public Safety increases. One of the proposed increases is compensation. Chief Denn noted that with the increase in members, the compensation needs to follow that increase. Willenbring questioned if a member gets paid for a call only if they show up. Chief Denn advised the members do not get paid per call, they get paid based on meeting a required number of calls throughout the year.

The new equipment increase is based upon eight new members taking a Firefight 1 class, and needing to outfit each of those members with turnout gear. A question was raised as to whether this expense should be listed as a capital expense. The Council thought doing this would be better explained to residents during the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Discussion was held on the request by MarLa for the City to help compensate for additional cleaning fees. Miller noted that currently MarLa has just over \$40,000 in their budget and the Council questioned what that money is being used for and why they are continuing to request bequest money. Pardun would like to see the library committee propose a plan for the money. Washington County has a new library director, and Mayor Mills advised the new director has plans for what he would like to see the bequest money used for. Further discussion ensued on collecting cleaning supply fees from Marla used for their various events. The Council will come up with a proposal and then discuss with Marla and amend the hall rental agreement.

The City will be going out for proposals for garbage pickup next month. Willenbring questioned the possibility of getting a garbage compactor, then have the local businesses bring their garbage to the compactor with would eliminate the number of dumpsters around town. This will be added to the RFP.

Willenbring questioned the proposed increase in the stormwater fund. Pardun noted that money will be used towards the raingarden project, ditch maintenance and dredging.

Discussion was held on purchasing a new dump truck this fall. If the order was placed now,

delivery would not take place until June of 2016. Currently we have \$50,000 in reserve and potentially another \$20,000 in trade in value. The bid for a new truck around \$170,000, so a certificate of indebtedness would be around \$100,000. Willenbring questioned potentially leasing a dump truck. Crotty will look into.

Pardun discussed personnel items. There is a proposed increase for insurance amounts for all positions. Currently each employee receives a stipend for health insurance. In the past, that money was able to be given to employees non taxed, however with the new insurance laws that can no longer happen. This health stipend now is listed as a bonus and taxed at that rate. After further discussion, the Council decided to move the insurance amount into the employee salary to relieve the tax impact.

The Council will set the maximum levy of \$969271.94 which represents a 22.3% increase at the September 10 City Council meeting.

Adjournment ó Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:22pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk (budget attached)