

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, May 11, 2017

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

Citizens Present: Ryan Goodman, Jason Crotty, Michael/Carol Mackner, Larry/Gwen Roden, Andy Powell, Kent Skaar, Brandon Helm, Dan Malmgren, Anne Reich, Gerry Mroska, Gayle Knutson, Jim Maher, Andy/Karen Kramer

Citizens Considerations ó

Michael Mackner ó Mr. Mackner was in attendance to donate a book he acquired from an antique shop that is closing in Stillwater. This particular book is a history of various antique fire pumpers that may relate to the City. The Council thanked Mr. Mackner for the generous donation.

Gayle Knutson ó Ms. Knutson is a resident of Marine and received a grant to shoot a short action film in the downtown Marine area. There will be approximately a 20 man crew, trucks and lights, however there should be no need to close off roads and minimal impact to the residents. The shooting schedule will be sometime in the fall.

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the movie production for a maximum of seven days for Gayle Knutson. Motion passed unanimously.

Marine General Store Dumpster Enclosure Proposal ó The City Attorney has drafted an encroachment agreement for the dumpster enclosure and loading dock for the Marine General Store. Pardun noted that his concern that there is no hardship still stands. Miller noted that the Brookside encroachment agreement was approved based on the hardship that there was no other location to place the entrance. Mowery is also concerned that this will set a precedent based on lack of a hardship.

Gwen Roden noted that dumpster screening is being proposed based on the Comprehensive Plan and Village Center Concept plan to have garbage screened. If the dumpster is moved to the back of the building, there would not be adequate room for the garbage trucks.

Miller noted that the City is not requiring the screening of the dumpster at this point. The screening is part of a concept plan for beautification. Willenbring believes that the City has the option of terminating the agreement at any time and that the reason the City is not enforcing the screening of the dumpsters because the majority of those dumpsters are in City right away.

Mowery stated that he agrees with the Comprehensive Plan, however that is a guide only and does not want to set any precedence.

Gerry Mroska noted that the term hardship no longer exists in terms of variances, and the State now uses the term practical difficulty.

Andy Kramer questioned what the Council would consider a practical difficulty. Pardun believes those dumpsters could go in the back of the store. Gwen stated she has discussed this with the garbage company and they have stated they would not be able to get their trucks back there. Pardun still believes there is space there would be room on the east side of the building where those dumpsters used to be. Andy Kramer stated the addition of the deli eliminated that option. Pardun stated that he believes Ms. Roden that she spoke with the garbage company and based upon that information is more inclined to agree to the encroachment agreement. Mowery agreed.

Willenbring moved that the City accept the encroachment agreement as drafted by the City Attorney. The motion failed for lack of a second. After further discussion:

*Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to approve the encroachment agreement based upon the practical difficulty that the dumpsters cannot be placed anywhere else on the property. Motion passed unanimously.*

Brandon Helm ó Gateway Trail Proposal ó Miller introduced Brandon Helm and Kent Skaar, who presented a revised Joint Powers Agreement with the language requested at the April meeting included. This language allows for the City to cancel the agreement any time prior to the submission of final drawings and specs.

*Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to accept the Gateway State Cooperated Agreement between the City and the State of Minnesota as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

Planning Commission ó Chariman Mrsola reported there was a preapplication meeting for 570 Judd Street for an accessory apartment. There will be a public hearing in June.

Public Safety ó Chief Malmgren stated that Dave Schlenker has joined the department. The appreciation dinner was held in April, however attendance was down so the department will look at alternate ideas for next year.

The City of Hudson is considering having Lakeview provided them with EMS service and a few members of our department have been meeting with Hudson to assist them with questions.

*Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve David Schlenker as a probationary member. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve a one day liquor license for the Fireman's Streetdance on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.*

Roads - Bolton Menk will hold a pop up meeting at Millstream Days to promote the Comprehensive plan. The next meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

The local street project has been moved back to a July 10<sup>th</sup> start date.

MnDOT is almost complete with the retaining wall project.

Forest Lake Contracting has requested to store their materials being used for County Rd 4 at the Compost site. If the Council agrees, there will be either an escrow or letter of credit. The Council reviewed the agreement and would like to have a letter of credit, and will eliminate item number 2 from the second page and require the letter of credit to be for \$15,000.

*Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to approve the escrow agreement as amended. Motion passed unanimously.*

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report

Recreation ó

Urban Forest Task Force ó The Urban Task Force will have a table at the Millstream Day event. The DNR will be out to measure the champion Willow tree next week. There are people interested in joining the task force and hopefully that will begin to move forward.

Finance ó No Report

Cemetery ó Restoration is complete.

Wastewater and Water Systems ó There has been a lot of sewer work done on the laterals as a result of the County Rd 4 project. There are two lift stations that are having significant issues and will require extensive work at some point in the future.

There is some corrosiveness in the water at Jackson Meadow, which are affecting two homes in particular. Jason Crotty stated there might need to investigate the iron filtering systems and water softeners to see if they might be malfunctioning.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force ó Willenbring reported on the April meeting. Nancy Cosgriff will be leaving the Task Force. Discussion was held on the sign workshop on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the church. This meeting is to determine a number of signs, validate the content of the signs and verify the locations. There were some stormwater erosion concerns that the group will be addressing. The group would also like to meet with the City Engineer to discuss design options for the Judd Street and Third Street road project. Miller questioned where the list of 35 projects

the task force references in the April meeting Minutes. Willenbring can provide that list. Miller also wanted to verify that the task force is not working with the County and State independently of the City. Willenbring noted they are not. Miller is concerned that there are committee members are working independently and outside of the Council on various issues.

MarLa - Anne Reich thanked the Council for the use of the Council room for their training.

Hall/Restoration ó Pardun will be meeting with architect for the Village Hall to discuss the restoration project .

Stormwater/Watershed ó Pardun reported on the rain garden project. The hope was that the rain gardens would run between \$3,000 - \$5,000 and the bids came back between \$12,000 - \$15,000. To date, the entire project is approximately \$100,000 over budget. The Watershed District met and discussed this project and has agreed to cover 75% of the budget overage if the City agrees to cover the remaining 25%, which would be \$25,000. Pardun is very happy with the solution and is requesting the Council approve the additional \$25,000. The stormwater fund does have enough money in the fund to cover the extra amount. Mayor Mills questioned how the bid was projected so far off in the first place. Pardun believes the full scope of the project was not realized in the beginning.

Andy Powell questioned if there could be volunteer work to help save costs. Pardun noted that when a project is bid you cannot remove the labor from that bid. However for future projects, that may be an option.

*Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve additional financial assistance to the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District over its original grant participation in the amount of \$25,000. Motion passed unanimously. Mowery abstained.*

Millsite ó There were 75 new trees and shrubs planted. The group will be meeting with Ben Leonard to review a sustainability plan. The group will also be meeting with Lon Pardun to discuss the erosion issue.

Green Step Cities - No Report.

Holidays ó Mowery is still waiting to hear is there is a replacement for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> security.

School Property ó Pardun reported that the committee will be meeting with an appraiser next week. District 834 Voice offered to drop the lawsuit appeal if the district would agree to keep Withrow and Oak Park school open for two years. As of yet there has been no response from the District.

Consent Calendar ó *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Minutes of 4/13/17, Treasurer's Report of 4/17, List of Bills for 5/11/17, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó A request was made by the family of Eldon Johnson, who was a part of volunteering at the Log Cabin every weekend, to plant a tree in his honor as he has recently passed away. The family is willing to work with the City on the type and location of the tree. The Council thought that would be fine as long as they agree to maintain and water it.

Solar Power Hour Request ó Chris will work with the Green Step Cities committee on this issue.

Jackson Meadow Security Cameras ó The City Attorney reviewed í written permission can be given to the HOA. Jason Crotty previously met with the HOA and determined the current location of the cameras was the best option. The Council consensus was to leave as is for now.

Long/Short Term Goals ó No Report.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report ó Miller moved and Mowery seconded to not waive the tort liability for the City insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

Andy Powell questioned if the City has thought about a marketing strategy for the City. Willenbring noted that there is no Chamber of Commerce for the businesses and also no consensus from the businesses on that issue. Pardun also noted that the residents are also split on whether or not to promote tourism. There are also various associations within the St. Croix River valley that help to promote the City.

Adjournment ó Miller moved and Willenbring seconded to adjourn at 8:48pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk