

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Pardun, Miller, Roden and Mills present. Anderson absent.

Citizens Present:

Citizen Considerations – John Goodfellow, Gerry Mrosla, Ryan Goodman, Wade Johnson, Jim Shaver, Wendy Ward, Nancy Cosgriff, John Waugh, Kristina Smitten, Mary Whitaker, Larry Whitaker, Mary Burke, Jane Kennedy, Andy/Karen Kramer, Tod Drescher, Anne Reich, Anne Reich, Dorothy Deetz, Dan Malmgren, Jennifer Henry.

Citizens Considerations – Wade Johnson was in attendance to discuss the Chestnut Ravine project. That area has been eroding and sending sediment into the ravine. This project is being paid for by MnDOT and grant dollars. There was incorrect information going around regarding the impact of the project and Mr. Johnson wanted to assure the residents that the project is being done with as little impact as possible and the Watershed is very sensitive to the project. The project is currently on hold due to the bids coming in much higher than anticipated so the District will go out for bid again this coming fall/winter. There has also been a new administrator hired to replace Jim Shaver. Miller thanked Mr. Shaver for his work with the Watershed District.

John Goodfellow – Mr. Goodfellow is working on a project to address the wake zone on the St. Croix River. He is requesting any feedback or comments from Council he can pass along with his recommendation. Miller noted the river is under multi jurisdiction and that can make it difficult to get any action. Miller offered to attend a meeting with Mr. Goodfellow.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla updated the Council on the short term rental discussion. The committee would like to send a city-wide mailing to notify residents of a public meeting on June 25th to lay out the progress. Following that meeting, the commission would like to mail a survey to all residents regarding short term rentals. The commission is looking for direction from the Council on how to move forward with drafting an ordinance. Pardun would like to see the Commission draft an ordinance to present to Council. Kristina Smitten noted the Commission would also like to have a table at the upcoming Street dance to let people know about the community meeting.

Fire and Rescue – The Streetdance is Saturday, June 15th.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. The Comprehensive Plan has been deemed complete for review by the Met Council. Miller will attend those review meetings on behalf of the City. The first public open house for the Judd Street project is tentatively scheduled for the end of August. Wendy Ward questioned if the public will have any input on the Judd St project prior to plans being drawn up. Pardun stated input will be taken during those open house meetings and then the committee will go back and address that input within the plan. Pardun also

noted that there are certain parts of the plan that cannot be changed due to the requirements of the grants. Andy Kramer questioned what the conditions need to be met by MnDOT. Pardun stated it will be things like striping the parking places, etc. But there are several, and more of those will be shared during the open house meetings. Budget is also an issue, and many of the “wish list” items will be able to be included because of cost. Nancy Cosgriff wondered if the plan could include many of the “wants” from the residents with the hope that those items can be done in the future. Pardun stated that conversation will happen in August. John Goodfellow noted there are many opportunities for other grants for projects like the Mill Stream, etc that can be integrated with this project.

County Rd 4 project – There is still an issue with a resident’s driveway that needs to be resolved.

TA Schifsky is requesting payment No 6 in the amount of \$16,999.58.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the payment to TA Schifsky in the amount of \$16,999.58. Motion passed unanimously.

Wastewater Study - Goodman reviewed the draft wastewater system study. The plan shows capacity for the school building and 25 existing home that are currently on an individual septic system, however if this happens the pumps at P-1 would need to be upgraded to handle the flow. The drain field has been operating well, but the 2010 evaluation of the system showed a life span of 3.5 more years, and if the school and additional 25 homes were to connect, that life span would shorten to 2.5 years. The system is doing well so there really is no way to say exactly when the system will fail. Miller questioned if there is a new I&I study in the works. Jason Crotty is working with the City Engineer on ways to get ahead of the I&I. Wendy Ward questioned the purpose of these study. Pardun stated the idea is to try and get the homes that are currently on an individual system tied into the City system as their systems fail. Jane Kennedy is a resident on Judd Street and was questioning when the Council might know if/when new construction could potentially connect. Pardun thought maybe in a year or so.

Personnel/Building Inspector - Pardun reported that Kiersten Young has submitted her resignation. The City is currently hiring for the position. The original deadline for applications was this Friday, however it has been extended another week.

Recreation – Miller reported the DNR is still working on hiring a new manager so Gateway talks are temporarily on hold. The gravel bed is planted along with the River Birch.

Finance – The City was contacted by its audit firm that effective immediately they are no longer performing government audits. Clerk Peterson has reached out to a few firms for proposals and is recommending Clifton Larson. The cost of the audit will increase by approximately \$2500.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve Clifton Larson as the new City Auditor with a maximum cost of \$10,060 per year. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery – Wendy Ward presented bundles of erosion control material littering the cemetery and is concerned that it is not biodegradable material and is wondering what the Council plans to do about it. This is material left behind by the contractor during the road project. The City Engineer will look into the material specifications and report back to the Council. Pardun stated that if the material was supposed to be biodegradable and it is not, then the contractor will need to come back and take care of the project. If the material was acceptable as is, then the City will remove it. Anne Reich noted that if it needs to be removed there are city volunteers that can help pick it up.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center - No Report

MarLa - Mary Burke reported that children's program is kicking off this Saturday morning and will continue throughout the summer. There will be an event on June 19th with a local artist and Jill Johnson will do story telling about the St Croix on June 28th. July 12th there will be scientists from the Research Station. There will be a board meeting on June 17th and the public is welcome.

Hall/Restoration – No Report.

Stormwater/Watershed – No additional report.

Millsite – The walkways have floated off in the recent high water.

Green Step Cities - Anne Reich reported the committee met and there are several members attending conferences and webinars on energy efficiencies.

Holidays – Roden reported Hollywood Pyrotechnics did a test shoot at the Berkey Street site. The best viewing will be along Judd Street, however some areas like the Bandstand park are not conducive for viewing. The committee is doing everything it can to inform the public ahead of time, including the Osceola Train.

School Property – Pardun reported the committee reviewed many of the ideas submitted by residents, however those would require code changes and so many of those ideas are on hold. However, the folk school would like to begin holding classes there in the fall. Pardun is requesting permission from the Council to begin working through a short term commitment with the Folk School to hold a few classes in the fall. The consensus of the Council was to move forward.

Communication Infrastructure – Anderson submitted a report that the Attorney is reviewing the franchise agreement for Midco. Powder Ridge has received the go ahead from AT&T to explore the compost site for a future tower. Working on updating the city website.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/9/19, Treasurer's Report of 5/19, List of Bills for 6/13/19, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – *Miller moved and Roden seconded to waive the tort liability for the City insurance. Motion passed unanimously.*

John Waugh recommended the City consider adding Tod Drescher to the Judd Street project in place of Dan Willenbring when Mr. Willenbring is unavailable. Pardun will discuss with Mr. Willenbring.

Pardun suggested the Council hold a workshop in October to review the committees and discuss potential consolidation and also the charges for each committee in terms of Minutes, communication, etc. Miller would also like to discuss how communication is disseminated. An example would be a recruitment brochure that was created by volunteers of the department went into a City wide mailing without the Council approving or reviewing. He also wanted to reiterate that no Council member or committee member has the power to speak or make decisions on behalf of the City without Council approval.

Miller reported there was issues with the 6th grade play in terms of respect of City Staff and work being done, but also with unsupervised students. There was one incident where a student was left in the kitchen unsupervised and turned on the stove with items set on top. Miller would like the Council to keep this in mind for next year.

Long/Short Term Goals – No Change.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – No Report.

Adjournment . Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 8:41pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk