

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 12, 2018

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

Citizens Present: Cheryl Arcand, Dorothy Deetz, Jim Maher, Gerry Mrosla, Andy/Ann Kirn, Wendy Ward, Ryan Marcel, Larry/Mary Whitaker, Gwen/Larry Roden, Dan Malmgren, Mary Skamsner, Mike Tibbetts. Suzanne Lindgren, Curt Moe.

Citizen Considerations -

Cheryl Arcand – Ms. Arcand was in attendance to present a check for the Fire Department from Nita Mae’s ice cream shop in the amount of \$226.74.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve a donation for the Fire Department in the amount of \$226.74. Motion passed unanimously.

Ann Kirn – Mrs. Kirn was in attendance to advise the Council that there are illegal fireworks being shot off in her neighborhood during the evening of July 3rd. She has asked the neighbors who are shooting the fireworks to stop however they refuse. Ms. Kirn called the Washington County Sheriff Department to report the activity and was told there was nobody available to attend to the issue due to the deputies conducting traffic control during the City fireworks display. Mayor Mills stated the Washington County deputies that are working the City fireworks are paid deputies for that particular event, and there is no reason the County cannot send out additional law enforcement to attend to the situation. Mayor Mills will talk to the Sheriff’s department about this situation. Dorothy Deetz noted that she spoke with the paid deputies and requested they at least drive through the neighborhood to check out the situation after the city fireworks event. Ms. Deetz agreed that there is a safety issue and would like the City to consider hiring an additional deputy to patrol that neighborhood. Chris Mowery stated that Washington County is our law enforcement and this issue should be brought forth to the Washington County Board of Commissioners if the law enforcement is saying they are not available. Willenbring suggested inviting the Sheriff to a Council meeting to address the issue and then bring him back at the June Council meeting next year to remind them. Mayor Mills stated he will contact the Sheriff.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla reported there was no June meeting. There is the final Comprehensive Plan workshop on July 17th. The Commission will also begin to look at the Air BnB issue at the August meeting.

Fire and Rescue – There are two new probationary members, Mellissa Dahl and Brad Vollmer.

There are two old fire hoses that can no longer be used by the department and the Marine Landing would like them.

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to declare the current expired fire hoses as surplus and to sell to the Marine Landing for \$1.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to approve Mellissa Dahl and Brad Vollmer as probationary members of the department. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads - The Rose Street construction project has begun. As part of the road project, a portion of the bike trail will also be reconstructed. The current bid is for \$89,000 and there is \$99,000 budgeted. Pardun noted that the City could get an additional 350 ft of trail reconstructed for the additional \$10,000. There was a meeting with Washington County and the wash outs at the corner of 5th Street and County Rd 4 was discussed. There were additional blankets put down but there will be discussions of potential asphalt being placed to help eliminate the gravel washouts. The church parking lot engineer is working with the Watershed on the washouts that have happened during the recent rains. Mike Tibbetts does not believe the rain gardens are working and were poorly planned out. Mr. Tibbetts also questioned the legitimacy of soil borings done on Rose Street and would like to see evidence that it was done. Willenbring stated the City could certainly get him a copy to review.

Pardun moved and Willenbring seconded to use the remaining \$10,000 budgeted for the bike trail to do an additional 350 ft of the bike trail reconstruction .

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation – Ryan Marcel was in attendance to report on the Cyclocross race in Jackson Meadow. The race will be October 20 and 21. The Jackson Meadow Homeowners Association has also been approached and they are waiting approval. Miller thanked Mr. Marcel for putting the event together. The Council was all in favor of having the event.

Finance – No Report

Cemetery – The cemetery road will be a part of the upcoming road construction project.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center – The Council will look at the utility box project and then discuss at the August meeting.

MarLa - Jim Maher reported that the kids summer activity events were very well attended. Craig Blacklock will be featured next week, and that event is sold out. The AV equipment is

fully installed and functioning. Documentary night will continue this fall.

Hall/Restoration – The hall restoration has begun. The paint scraping and prep work should be finished this week. Mike Tibbetts would like to see an automatic clapper put on the bell to allow it to ring every hour on the hour and also add a clock to the up part of the bell tower.

Stormwater/Watershed – No additional report.

Millsite – Mowery reported that the Historical Society has begun creating a site management plan at no charge to the City. The next step is to have a DNR forester meet with the group and visit the site.

Green Step Cities - The League of MN Cities has become interested in the City's program and will be writing an article for an upcoming magazine publication. There has been research on a particular wasp that feeds on the Emerald Ash Borer. The U of M is hosting a workshop to give more information on these wasps and is open to the public.

Holidays – Dorothy Deetz was in attendance to report on the July 3rd event. There was an issue with porta potties and next year they would like to see them more evenly dispersed. There was less publicity and everything seemed to go very well. There was an issue with pedestrians walking in the highway on the way back to their cars. Wendy Ward questioned if there was an estimate on population and if there is a group that gets together after the event to evaluate how things went. Miller believes the population was down slightly but was surprised how far to the north and south the parking was along highway 95. Mowery noted the increased highway parking was largely due to increasing the no parking signs along many of the local city streets.

School Property – Pardun reported there has been no movement. One of the board members has left and the board is currently in the process of finding a replacement.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/10/18, Treasurer's Report of 6/18, List of Bills for 7/12/18, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes . Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business – *Mowery moved and Miller seconded to approve the list of election judges for the 2018 primary and general election. Motion passed unanimously.*

Ryan Marcel questioned if the Council has identified whether they want to be a sleepy river town or a tourist town, and why the Comp Plan doesn't reflect what the City wants to be. Miller stated the Council has identified Marine as being a low impact tourism town, but there is a fine line on what defines low impact. Larry Whitaker believes if the City is not careful on how they handle short term rentals because the City could have a high level of transient residents. Wendy Ward believes the Council needs to get the residents more involved in the discussions of what the future of the town looks like and that there has not been an opportunity for residents to voice

their opinion. Willenbring believes the community has changed over the years and the City Council needs to set goals to allow the community to be flexible and change with the population. It was also pointed out that these community discussions have happened with the Village Center Task Force, and the addendum was a six year effort. Further discussion was held on the impact the school closing has had on the businesses and the kind of residents that move into the town. This also affects the number of volunteers that are willing to join Council, the fire department, etc.

Long/Short Term Goals – No change.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment – Willenbring moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:39pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk