

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, August 8, 2019

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

Citizens Present: John Goodfellow, Nancy Cosgriff, Cheryl Arcand, Larry Whitaker, Larry Roden, Jason Crotty, Tommy Boesel, Ryan Goodman, Gerry Mroska, Lori Vogel, Juanita Ikuta, Curt Moe, Wendy Ward, Tom Warth, Nick Banks, Dan Malmgren

Approval of the Agenda – Miller requested to add the Marine General Store to the top of the agenda.

*Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.*

Citizens Considerations – Nick Banks, MN Land Trust, was in attendance to request a waiver of the hall rental fee on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The event they are hosting called Treasured Places, which highlights properties in Marine that are part of the MN Trust. There will a presentation and award ceremony upstairs.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to waive the rental and hall cleaning fee for the Land Trust event on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.*

Cheryl Arcand – Marine General Store – The General Store had their well recently tested and it failed due to contamination. After several attempts to treat the well, the contamination is still there. The only options at this point is to connect to an existing well or drill a new well. There seems to be potential issues with setbacks with a new well, so the Arcands are requesting to connect to the City well. Mayor Mills questioned a UV filter system, which was just installed at the school building due to the same issue. Pardun offered to work with the General Store to get more information on that system. Tom Warth questioned what the water source for the Scoop is. Ms. Arcand advised that building is connected to the Village Hall. Mr. Warth believes the town needs to do whatever it can to help the store out. Anderson does not believe it is the City's place to help out private businesses and would like to see the store look further into the UV filter system. Wendy Ward, resident, questioned if the City should be concerned about the contamination and do further testing. John Goodfellow suggested it may be the sewer lift station that caused the contamination and the City should look into further. The Council noted that this town is all private wells, and contamination can be caused by groundwater, which was the case at the school. which was the case at the school. The store will explore the option of the UV filter and keep the Council updated.

John Goodfellow is concerned about the vitality of the downtown district with several businesses closing, and would like to see the City be more proactive and take some sort of initiative to improve the vitality of the downtown. Anderson thanked Mr. Goodfellow but noted that some of the business closings are due to landlord disputes or other issues and does not believe the situation is

dire. Miller noted that the Council has suggested some sort of organization or chamber of commerce run by the businesses to help with the vitality and nobody has stepped up. Councilmember Anderson has also created a separate website to help promote the town and the businesses and requested volunteers to help run the site, however it always the same people who step up. Anderson stated after August he would like to see this issue addressed further and have intentional conversations with the community. Nancy Cosgriff suggested getting the Village Center Task Force begin to meet again and believes they could be a good resources for the downtown area. Anderson doesn't necessarily believe that a City Council community is going to solve this problem, and that it needs more involvement from and with the businesses.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mroska updated the Council on the July meeting. 17500 St Croix Tr, the Asa Parker house, presented a requested to split the property and put a house on the second lot. The issue is a split would create two substandard lots because it would not meet the 30,000 sq. ft minimum. Pardun noted that with no City water or sewer, the idea of the 30,000 sq. ft was to help conserve the property around town and allowing one person to build on a non-conforming lot would open a can of worms. Anderson believes the 30,000 sq ft minimum is keeping new and younger families from coming to Marine. Pardun questioned what is the definition of affordable housing. The cost to build a home without a lot is between \$250 - \$300 per sq.ft, so you add sewer, water and the lot the cost is \$300,000 and up. A sewer study is being conducted to see how many additional connections may be available.

The Commission reviewed the short term rental survey results, and worked on the draft regulations. The Commission is wondering if the Council would like to have a workshop with the Commission to review the draft or have the draft sent to the Council for their review and changes. Pardun would like to see a combined workshop to discuss the draft with the Commission. The Commission will complete the draft at the August meeting and then set a workshop date with the Council.

Fire and Rescue – The department help aid Scandia with their tornado clean up. Miller noted the department is always looking for additional volunteers.

Roads – The Village Center revitalization meeting will be August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm upstairs of the Village Hall.

Christ Lutheran Church is proposing to replace the cross on the east side of the church and wanted to make sure the Council had no issues. The consensus of the Council was for the church to move forward.

Bids have been received for soil borings for the Judd St. project. Three bids were received and the lowest bid was from Northern Technologies in the amount of \$8,000. The cost of this project will be covered by MnDOT grant.

*Pardun moved and Roden seconded to award the soil boring bid to Northern Technologies in the amount of \$8,000. Motion passed unanimously.*

Ryan Goodman reviewed the engineering report. Washington County is in the process of creating a bicycle and pedestrian plan which Ryan has volunteered to be a part of. The ramp from Highway 97 to northbound Highway 35 will be closed for approximately 40 days. Anderson thanked Ryan for volunteering on the Washington County advisory committee.

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation – Anderson reported on the planned Founders Day Soiree to celebrate the history of Marine. The event will take place on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Burriss Park and will be approximately 3 hours in length. Anderson is requesting a Proclamation to be signed by Mayor Mills. Mayor Mills questioned the section of the proclamation that discussed the lamenting of the forest. Mayor Mills believes the lamenting is what created Marine. The proclamation also implies this will be an annual event, and Mayor Mills would like to see the word annual removed and see how the first year goes. Anderson will amend the proclamation and get it to Mayor Mills for signature.

Anderson is also requesting \$1,2000 from the Parks and Rec community events fund to pay for Brian Wicklund to play at the event.

*Anderson moved and Miller seconded to use \$1,200 of the Parks and Rec community fund for Brian Wicklund and the Barley Jacks to play the Founders Day event. Motion passed unanimously.*

John Goodfellow stated the urban task force is still looking for a third committee member, however the 15 trees in the gravel bed are getting close to needing planting and they need to know where the Council would like to place them. Miller questioned if the current members of the task force would be willing to look into planting locations and make a recommendation to the Council. Goodfellow is willing to work with the two members to come up with a recommendation.

Finance – A budget meeting needs to be scheduled however two Council members are out of town most of the month of August. August 28<sup>th</sup> was the only day all five members are in town. The follow up meeting would be Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to set the proposed 2020 budget meeting on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm with a follow up meeting on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery – The Restoration Society has received money from the Marine Scandia Lions towards a second round of restoration at the cemetery. A member of the Restoration Society will attend the September Council meeting to present the details to the Council.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional report.

### Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center - No Report

MarLa - Juanita Ikuta Schodde reported on upcoming library events. October 13<sup>th</sup> will be the date for the annual fundraising event. The art work currently displayed in the library is by local resident, Tammy Newcomb.

Hall/Restoration – Mayor Mills noted the painting of upstairs and potentially the clerks offices will happen in the near future.

Stormwater/Watershed – No additional report.

Millsite – Curt Moe was in attendance to report on some erosion issues by the large Elm tree and behind the hall. The Millstream committee would like to add signs to warn away from the erosion sites and other signs giving direction to where the river trail is located. One sign would be located on the fence at the Millsite, another sign would be behind the Village Hall and another behind the General Store. Anderson suggested trying vegetation first and then look further into different types of signage in the near future. The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the signs for the short term and look at different long term solutions later.

Green Step Cities - Leslie noted the next meeting will be August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Green Step Cities would like to place signs on Highway 95, along with the existing Tree City USA signs. Jason Crotty noted the permitting process through MnDOT can be very difficult and the easier route may be to request a separate sign and post. The committee will discuss further with public works.

Holidays – No Report

School Property – A draft lease was received from the City Attorney between the City and Folk School. Miller would like to see something added to allow additional uses of the building. Matt Smith was in attendance on behalf of the Folk School, and is in agreement with the addition suggested by Councilmember Miller. Pardun will send back to the City Attorney to add that amendment, and the Folk School is still waiting to get an opinion from their attorney. The Folk School is hoping to begin classes on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Anderson read a statement from Robin Brooksbank stating the Folk School is a non-profit organization and all board members are volunteers.

The Community meeting went very well, and the Council receive a lot of positive feedback from the community. All the locks are changed, however there is a roof leak that is being worked on.

Communication Infrastructure – Anderson reported Powder Ridge is still waiting on the NPS regarding the proposed location. The title work came back and shows the land at the compost site was deeded to the City from the State. Additional title work is being done to see if the State needs to sign off.

The City of Scandia is working on a tower with Midco and depending on the location, Marine may benefit.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/13/19, Treasurer's Report of 7/19, List of Bills for 8/8/19, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

Comprehensive Plan Update – The Met Council officially approved the Comprehensive Plan and now a Resolution is required to officially adopt the new plan.

*Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve Resolution 080819-01 adopting the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Miller moved and Roden seconded to adopt Resolution 080819-02 adopting the Local Surface Water Management Plan. Motion passed unanimously.*

Long/Short Term Goals –.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Adjournment . Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:50pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk