

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 12, 2019

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

Citizens Present: Tom Warth, Ryan Goodman, Marge Strand, Kay Hempel, Dan Malmgren, Kristina Smitten, Jim Maher, Gerry Mroska, Tim Williams, Leslie McKenzie, Julie Warren, Felicia Cochran, Suzanne Lindgren, Peg Arnason, Charles Arnason, Wendy Ward, Mary and Larry Whitaker, Larry Roden, Jennifer Henry, Scott Spisak, Robin Brooksbank, Win Miller, Mike Tibbetts.

Approval of the Agenda –

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Considerations –

Tim Williams – Advanced Disposal- Advanced Disposal was the only company to submit a proposal for garbage and recycling services. The only amendment to the original proposal is the recycling which was listed as recycling however should be every other week.

Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Garbage and Recycling contract with Advanced Disposal for a period of three years. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Arnason – Mrs. Arnason was in attendance to report that the membership of the Civic Club is declining due to the age of the members and a lack of new members. The Civic Club currently runs the museum during the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day however with the decline in volunteers they believe the Council needs to begin to think about making that a paid position. The City will continue to advertise for volunteers.

Julie Warren – Ms. Warren presented a request to split the PID for lot 4 and lot 5 of the Asa Parker property. The City Attorney has recommended not allowing the split as that would then create two substandard lots, as both would be under the minimum square footage of 30,000 square ft. Miller questioned why Ms. Warren would like to split the PID because she would like to see a home placed on that lot at some point in the future but they would like to maintain control of the kind of home that would put there to assure it will be a good fit for the community. Pardun noted that if the lots are split, you would not only have two substandard lots but one of those lots would also have a garage on it without a principle structure which also does not meet code. Pardun does not believe that the Council can approve a request like this at this time due to the ordinance requirements however believes that the minimum lot size is something the City should look at, but that process would take considerable time. Miller also noted that the sewer capacity is also a part of the conversation. Roden noted that a portion of the old garage on lot 4 has been removed and questioned if the remaining structure will be removed. Ms. Warren noted that they have not made

that decision, however would be willing to do so along with obtaining the necessary perc test if needed as part of the request. Anderson is not willing to shut down this request due to the fact that if lots 3 and 4 were combined, it would be 147 sq ft short of the 30,000 sq ft. Anderson believes Ms. Warren should table her request until more research is done on the perc tests. Win Miller, resident, was previously on the Planning Commission and City Council and noted that land variances and believes this issue should be put in front of the Planning Commission prior to Council decision. Clerk Peterson noted this particular request is for a PID split and not a variance and so this issue only requires City Council action. Roden also believes the request needs to be looked at based upon what fits the neighborhood also. Pardun believes the City would still be setting a precedent and believes the code should be reviewed and a further discussion. Brooksbank noted that when she was on City Council there was a similar request that the Council turned down due to the same reasons discussed tonight and cautioned the Council about setting precedent. Mike Tibbetts, resident, questioned eliminating the alley between the parcels. The Council noted the policy of the Council for many, many years to not vacate city streets. After further discussion, Clerk Peterson advised the Council still needs to act on the request.

Anderson to approve Ms. Warren's request for a PID split. Anderson and Roden yeah, Pardun, Miller and Mills nay. Motion failed.

Jim Maher questioned the decision by the Council to not allow the Marine General Store to not connect to the City water well. He believes the General Store should be supported as much as possible and hopes the Council will take that into consideration during the Judd Street reconstruction project.

Planning Commission - There was no quorum at the August meeting, so it was very short. The Short Term Rental regulations are complete and the Commission would like to schedule a workshop with the Council. Clerk Peterson will send out a workshop request to both the Commission and Council.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to accept the withdrawal request from Julie Warren for a subdivision. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire and Rescue – Chief Malmgren reported the Art Fair is the weekend of September 21 and 22. The Open house will be held on October 12th to coincide with the Folk School community event. .

Miller moved and Roden seconded to approve Joe Domier as a probationary member of the Fire and Rescue Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report. Washington County is continuing to meet and discuss its first bicycle and pedestrian plan. The wastewater study draft should be ready to present to Council next month. The downtown revitalization project is still on track. The next public open house is tentatively scheduled for October 24th. Mike Tibbetts questioned if he could obtain a copy of the soil boring report. The City has not actually received the report yet, however

once we get it we will put it on the website.

Personnel/Building Inspector - Lori Vogel has resigned from the Assistant Clerk position. Suzanne Lindgren, who was also a candidate during the last round of interviews, has accepted the position and will begin September 24th.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to approve Suzanne Lindgren as the new assistant city clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation – Miller reported Scandia will be requesting a letter of support for their section of the Gateway Trail in the near future.

A citizen request has been made to place a single track mountain bike trail on the City trails up in Jackson Meadow. There is discussion of placing a track on the Anson property, and they would like to extend that to the City trails. Miller questioned if the Council would be willing to review a proposal for this trail. Pardun would like to see the proposal but would also like to know what kind of rutting could result from a trail like that. Tom Warth questioned using the trails at the school property or the maintenance shop. Locations would be discussed at the time the proposal is presented.

The Land Trust signs that were ordered states the land is private property, which is incorrect. The City has refused those signs and will be requesting new one.

Miller commended Kathy Marker and the church group for the work done on Cedar Street and the school property as part of their community project.

Miller questioned the utility box art project. The current request is for a painted project and the Council approved wrapped projects at the beginning and there is a question of maintenance. This particular project would be placed on the small panel box put in for the crosswalk.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve the artist rendering as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

There was approximately 125 people that attended the Founders Day event. The event was a success despite being cut short due to rain.

Finance – Pardun reported the initial budget meeting was held and the maximum levy was set at 1,192,658.60. The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held the first week in December on a date TBD.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the maximum proposed 2020 levy at 1,192,658.60 which represents a 34.74% increase. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery – Jennifer Henry reported on the cemetery project that happened in July. The Restoration Society would like to propose another project and is requesting a donation from the City of \$1,000 towards the project.

The Restoration Society will also be holding a workshop next week for citizens who are interested in learning how to do restoration work.

Wendy Ward commended the Restoration Society for putting this project together as the results were amazing.

Hall/Restoration – No Report.

Stormwater/Watershed - No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional report.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center - No Report

MarLa - Jim Maher reported the AV system has been fixed. Any further needs for that equipment by the City will be coordinated through the City Clerk.

The current Art Work in the library is the work of Monfort Dunn.

Documentary nights are scheduled beginning in October.

Millsite – The last count was approximately 3,000 visitors and a few boxelder trees were removed.

Green Step Cities - Anne Reich has stepped down from the Green Step Cities committee and Leslie MacKenzie would like to replace her as the new representative

Roden moved and Miller seconded to approve Leslie MacKenzie as the new Green Step Cities representative. Motion passed unanimously.

Holidays – No Report

School Property – The lease agreement for the Folk School has been amended as discussed at the budget meeting.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the lease agreement for the Marine Folk School as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Communication Infrastructure – A secondary proposal is in the works from Vinco for the compost site location.

Urban Forest – Three committee members were in attendance for the Forest Advisory committee, Felicia Cochran, Leslie MacKenzie and Kitzi Vadheim.

A recommendation was also brought forth for planting locations for the trees currently in the gravel bed. Public Works reviewed the proposed locations and saw no issues. Two of the trees will be placed in Jackson Meadow in memory of Pietro DiLorenzo and Peter Fernstrum.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve Felicia Cochran, Leslie MacKenzie and Kitzi Vadheim as the Forest Advisory committee with John Goodfellow as the advisor. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 8/8/19, 8/28, Treasurer's Report of 8/19, List of Bills for 9/12/19, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

.Long/Short Term Goals – No Changes

Committee Member Review – Miller would like to propose a workshop to review the citizen committees sometime before year end. Miller would like to make sure all committees are moving forward with advisory from Council.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – Clerk Peterson reminded the Council to please submit any information they would like in the newsletter as soon as possible.

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

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk