

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 9 , 2020

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

Citizens Present: John Goodfellow, Kitzi Vadheim, Mary Burke, Paul Anderson, Sarah Rottunda, Larry Roden, Peter Foster, Larry Martin, Leslie McKenzie, Liz Kelly, Dan Willenbring, Bob/Nancy Lindblom, Kay Hempel, Nancy Cosgriff, Jeff Roach, Kristina Smitten, Juli Hagstrom, Mark Kraske, Ginny Averill, Wendy Ward

Approval of Agenda – Miller requested moving the Communications Infrastructure committee report to the end of Citizen Consideration.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to accept the agenda as amended.

Designate Official Depository – *Miller moved and Roden seconded to designate Bill Miller as acting Mayor, that the monthly meeting date be the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, that the County Messenger be the official newspaper, that the Security State Bank of Marine be the official depository, that Johnson and Turner be the official legal firm, that Bolton Menk be the City Engineer and that Robert Rules of Order, revised, be the official rules of the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

Citizen Considerations –

Jeff Roach – Watershed District Board Request – Mr. Roach is interested in applying for the last open board position on the Carnelian Marine Watershed District and is requesting a recommendation from the City Council. The Council reviewed Mr. Roach's resume and thought he would make a good addition to the Watershed Board.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to recommend Jeff Roach as a board member to the Carnelian Marine Watershed District. Motion passed unanimously.

Kristina Smitten – Ms. Smitten has become aware of a grant opportunity for open space work restoration that will encompass both Jackson Meadow and City of Marine property. The deadline is the end of January for this round, and again in the fall. Ms. Smitten is requesting the City approve moving forward with the grant and be the official applicant. The area that would be restored is the Warth property and area by 1201 Broadway. The grant is a 10% match for which Jackson Meadow would cover. Pardun believes it would make sense to go for the grant now and if they do not get it, apply again in September.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to accept the Jackson Meadow Natural Resource plan grant request. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Anderson/Sarah Rottunda – Sarah Rottunda reported that two proposals were received from vendors requesting to put up a tower in the City. The infrastructure committee invited both cell tower representatives to come and present their proposals. The current preferred location would be at the City owned compost site, which seems to provide the best coverage and the proposed height of the tower would be 180 ft. The proposed lease term would be for 35 years with the total revenue to the City at approximately \$400,000. Ms. Rottunda explained that no questions would be taken from the audience at this time, and if the Council decided to move forward with pursuing this issue, there will be plenty of opportunity for public comment and input.

Pardun would like to see this proposal sent to the Planning Commission, but also would like to note that the Commission is also working on Short Term Rentals and ordinance review and those tasks should be wrapped up prior to beginning this issue. Anderson thanked the committee for their hard work on this issue and the residents for their continued input and feedback.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to send this proposal to the Planning Commission for further review. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission - No December meeting.

Committee Assignments –

Fire and Rescue – The 2019 report will be coming. Richard Johnson has retired after 41 years on the department and the Council thanked him for his service. Chief Malmgren would like to recommend Andy Lapos as Deputy Chief to replace Richard Johnson.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve Andy Lapos as deputy Chief. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed his engineering report. There is an architectural review being conducted by SHPO for the Village Center project. This could take 6-9 months to complete. Xcel will be relocating power poles as part of the project and the City should be aware that this could happen at any time and with very little notice. Wendy Ward questioned what concerns were raised by SHPO. Goodman stated the review was triggered because the downtown area is in a designated historical district and they are looking at what, if any, impacts the project changes may have on.

The City was also awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Washington County CDA to help with project costs.

Personnel/Building Inspector - No Report.

Recreation – Miller reported that Planning Commission member Ed Sanderson is a member of the Gateway Trail board. The board is working on the Gateway Trail connection to Scandia and they are looking for a letter of support from the City of Marine. Miller would like to see the

Council move forward with the letter and believes Scandia would then do the same for Marine when the time comes for the trail to finally connect to the City of Marine section.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to draft a letter of support for the Scandia and William O'Brien State Park Gateway Trail connection. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance – No report .

Cemetery – No Report.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional Report. Miller commended the public works department for the plowing during the last storm.

Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center - No Report

MarLa - Mary Burke reported on the library events. There are game nights the second Friday of each month. Next week is the annual birthday party and the Oscar party is February 8th.

Hall/Restoration – Elise Bourne has taken the spot of Linda Tibbetts on the museum/civic club committee.

Stormwater/Watershed – No Report.

Millsite – Roden reported that an email was submitted by Tom Omdahl with a proposal to build steps connecting the lower deck by the falls to the deck on the Village Hall. Approval has been given by the Minnesota Historical Society. Anderson is the person who received the email and does not understand the lack of process from the Mill Site volunteers. He would like to see the project sent back to Mr. Omdahl and request they go through the proper channels. Miller doesn't understand how this project has been funded and approved by the Historical Society by someone who spoke on behalf of the City when the Council knew nothing about it.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to deny the project proposal requested by Mr. Omdahl. Miller, Anderson and Pardun for, Roden against. Motion passed.

Green Step Cities - Leslie McKenzie reported on the Green Step committee. The hope is to create subcommittees and a work proposal. Ms. McKenzie attended a 10th anniversary party for the Green Step Cities in St. Paul and people spoke of their interest in last years gravel bed project. The committee would like to order a sign to be placed at the entrance of town.

Urban Forest Committee – Peter Foster, resident, reported on the urban forest committee. Mr. Foster has just joined the group and has assumed the chair position. The group has put together a plan and budget for this upcoming year. The group would like to address the Emerald Ash borer

and work on educating the community. One event the committee would like to participate in would be tree ribboning, which is wrapping all of the ash trees with green tape to help residents identify the ash trees. There is also a grant opportunity they would like to apply for that is a 10% match that would be used for a second gravel bed.

Holidays – The contract was received from Hollywood Pyrotechnics for the 2020 show. Roden reported the stakes from the Christmas trees in the park are frozen in the ground and most likely will not be removed until spring.

School Property – The Folk school submitted a waiver for their open gym night. The City Attorney reviewed and noted that if someone were to challenge the language in the waiver, it would not hold up however he also stated that sometimes just having the waiver is enough of a deterrent. After further discussion, the Council would like to have the City Attorney re-draft the waiver.

Miller reported that the committee that is working on the new charter school will be hosting a public meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday, January 25th at 10:30am.

Communications Infrastructure -

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 12/12/19, Treasurer’s Report of 12/19, List of Bills for 1/9/20, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

City Logo – Anderson presented the four logos proposed by Studio 2 and would like the Council to review and let Clerk Peterson know their top picks, understanding that these logos can be changed as needed.

Election Judge Approval – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to accept Mary Skamser, Joel Stedman, June Eagleton and Gail Coolidge. Motion passed unanimously.*

Long/Short Term Goals – No changes .

Mayor Notes/Clerk’s Report – .

Adjournment . Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:02pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk