

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Anderson, Roden (7:07pm), Miller, Pardun and Mills present.

Citizens Present: Ryan Goodman, Jason Crotty, Peter Foster, Leslie McKenzie, Dorothy Deetz, Gregg Brooksbank, Anne Reich, Brigid/Erik Sandager, Larry Martin, Todd Coursolle, Emily Blake, Jim Maher,

Approval of Agenda – Anderson requested to add the Stay Safe Order under Public Safety. Miller moved and Anderson seconded to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Miller aye,

Pardun aye,

Anderson aye,

Roden aye,

Mayor Mills aye

Citizen Considerations – Todd Coursolle, resident at 480 Maple St, is requesting the vacation of a portion of Linden Street between 5th Street and Highway 95. Anderson noted that a street vacation typically must be in the interest of the public and not just the resident requesting the vacation. Miller also noted that it has been the policy of the City since the 90's to not vacate any City streets. Mr. Coursolle stated that portion of Linden Street is not used and they would like to be able to clear out buckthorn and debris. Anderson stated the Coursolle's have done a great job beautifying that property and if public works has additional time, he would ask they help with the disposal of that debris. Pardun does not believe that debris would be from the City. The Council consensus was that public works could take a look.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to deny the street vacation request for 480 Maple Street. Motion passed unanimously as presented by roll call:

Miller aye,

Pardun aye,

Anderson aye,

Roden aye,

Mayor Mills aye.

Street Vacation request – Erik and Brigid Sandager – The Sandagers submitted a request to vacate a portion of Cherry Street back in 2003 so they could build a driveway on the City street. The Council suggested the Sandagers go ahead and build the driveway as they were not in favor of a vacation. Miller suggested an encroachment agreement for the existing garage and driveway in lieu of vacating. Anderson and Mayor Mills both pointed out that the portion of Cherry St of the west side of Highway 95 is the only piece that is not vacated. Pardun noted that typically if a street is vacated, each abutting property owner would get 33 ft of that street. He is concerned that doing so would potentially cause a setback issue with the driveway. Because of this, the Council thought

an encroachment agreement would be the best way to proceed.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to deny the street vacation request with the stipulation that the City agree to enter into an encroachment agreement for the garage and driveway. Motion passed unanimously as presented by roll call:

Miller aye

Anderson aye

Roden aye

Pardun aye

Mills aye

Marla – The summer camps have been cancelled due to the Covid-19. There are also no adult programs scheduled in the near future. River Radio is on its 8th week and is going very well. Roden thanked Gayle Knutson and Jim Maher for putting on such a remarkable radio program.

Planning Commission – Assistant Clerk Dammann updated the Council on the April meeting. The Mill Stream Cottages PUD proposal has been pulled due to a change of realtors for the property, which increased the overall cost and therefore the project is no longer feasible. The group would like to keep the idea on the table however. The STR committee met and revised the draft ordinance, which is under discussion by the entire Commission. The Commission will be scheduling bi-weekly workshops to review the zoning ordinance. The members working on the cell tower issue has met and submitted comments for the Council. They are suggesting the ordinance should be revised but is looking for Council direction prior to moving forward. Roden believes the ordinance should have been revised prior to the Comprehensive Plan work was done and suggested the Council request the Commission look at revising the ordinance prior to moving forward. The communication infrastructure committee is working on putting together answers for the questions that were in the commission's report. Pardun and Roden believe the ordinance needs to be revised prior to any additional work being done by the infrastructure committee. The Council requested the Planning Commission move forward with revising the current cell tower ordinance.

Public Safety – Chief Malmgren submitted a written report. The Art Fair has been cancelled due to the low vendor sign up and also due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19. Department training has been suspended through the end of May.

Stay Safe Order – Anderson noted that the City will place the information for the Gov. Stay Safe order on the City website. A request was made by residents for the City to pass a resolution encouraging and supporting all visitors and residents within Marine wear a mask and social distance. Anderson does not believe that is something the City needs to do, and that residents should just continue to follow the Stay Safe order recommendations, which the City will place on the website for reference.

Code Red JPA – Washington County has submitted a joint powers agreement request which would extend the current code red agreement.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve the Joint Powers Agreement as presented by Washington County. Motion passed unanimously as presented by roll call:

*Miller aye,
Pardun aye,
Anderson aye,
Roden aye,
Mayor Mills aye*

Sexual Offender Moratorium – Anderson presented the moratorium as a proactive act due to a convicted sex offender recently moving into Stillwater. Many local governments have passed ordinances banning convicted sex offenders from moving into their cities and towns, which was found to be unlawful. This moratorium would give the City time to create an ordinance that helps to regulate where a level three sex offender could reside.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve Resolution 051420-02, Ordinance Number 2020-155, and interim ordinance protecting the planning process and the health, safety and welfare of City residents, and establishing a temporary moratorium on specified activities relating to the sexual offender residence location restriction. Motion passed unanimously per the following roll call:

*Anderson Aye
Roden Aye
Pardun Aye
Miller Aye
Mills Aye*

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed his Engineering report. The first phase in the SHPO assessment has been completed and phase two involves assessing the integrity of the historic district and effects the downtown project may have. Design plans/specs hope to be submitted in June to MnDOT. The State aid submittal is ahead of schedule by 30 days, which is good news.

Sweeper Purchase – An opportunity has been presented to public works to purchase a 2001 street sweeper in the amount of \$25,000. This amount is already secured in the Roads equipment fund. The City currently budgets \$4,000 per year for sweeping. Roden questioned the cost benefit to own a sweeper. Pardun noted that the sweeper could be used after significant weather events as needed rather than relying on a contractor who can only do the work when it fits into their schedule.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the purchase of a 2001 Elgin Pelican street sweeper in the amount of \$25,000. Motion passed unanimously per roll call:

Anderson aye

Pardun aye
Roden Aye
Miller Aye
Mills Aye

Personnel - No Report

Parks & Rec – Miller has been working with John Goodfellow on the idea of a new task force to address wake issues on the St. Croix River. The City sent a letter to the Lower St Croix River Management Commission addressing this issue last year, however no response was received. Mr. Goodfellow would like to create a short term task force to focus on defining the situation, identifying root causes and proposing solutions. He would like the task force to run through the fall and then pick up again next summer. Miller has talked to the Washington County Sheriffs Department and they have seen an increase in river traffic. Miller would like the City to have a unified voice on this subject rather than Mr. Goodfellow working as one voice. Roden questioned the steps the task force would take to reach their goal. Mr. Goodfellow believes defining the situation needs to happen first, and then work to raise awareness by installing signs, etc. Pardun questioned if he and other citizens have reached out to the St Croix River Association to see if they could work with them directly. Mr. Goodfellow has reached out to the them and they are reluctant to do anything without the partnership of the National Park Service. Anderson supports this effort and likes the idea of this task force. Pardun requested a sunset clause if this taskforce is created. Goodfellow would like to have it complete for the year by Thanksgiving and then pick up again in the spring. Anderson would like to give it until December 31st. Miller and Anderson will work with Goodfellow on the details and come back in June to formalize the task force, along with committee members.

Millsite –Anne Reich updated the Council on the Millsite. There has been an 80% increase in visitation in the last 4 months. There will be basic maintenance done throughout the summer by the volunteers on an individual basis. MN Landscapes will be doing some invasive species management, and Mike Tibbetts will be replacing two benches at the overlook. There will also be a plaque at the overlook honoring Jack Warren and Charles Arnason, who were instrumental in preserving that property. Ms. Reich is requesting the Mill Site committee to host their next meeting via zoom, and also requesting approval of the new members. Those members are Peter Foster, Tom Omdahl, Curt Moe, Larry Whitaker, Dave Stephens, Anne Reich, and Jim Schoeller.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the new members of the Mill Site committee.
Motion passed unanimously as follows:*

Miller aye
Roden aye
Mills aye
Pardun aye
Anderson aye

Urban Forest – Peter Foster reported that the trees are in the gravel bed and looking great. The tree survey and taping will happen in June.

Cemetery – No Report.

Water Systems- Pardun reported on the new sewer connections being installed at 16090 St Croix Trail and 16060 St Croix Trail North, one of which is a City owned on site and the other is a private system that is failing. These added connection installations were discussed at the sewer workshop.

City Properties – No Report.

Holidays/Events – Roden questioned the status of Memorial Day. Anderson questioned how the City can hold a public event without going against the Governors Stay Safe order. He suggested the possibility of live streaming the event for the public to watch. Roden noted that Jim Maher has also offered to read the names of the vets on River Radio if a service is not possible. There was a question of whether a live stream was an option or if it could be recorded and then the video be posted on line. Miller questioned if River Radio could have an online show on Memorial Day in lieu of an in person event. Jim Maher thought that would definitely be a possibility.

Founders Day Event – Anderson reported that the July 3rd fireworks have been postponed and he would like to hold them during the Founder's Day event in August. The group is exploring different options but believes it is late enough in the year that this gathering could happen. This event would be for Marine residents and not advertised to the public. Anderson would also like to potentially use this as a fundraiser for the Fire Department also. Roden is concerned that if the word gets out about the fireworks, then it could potentially get out of hand and suggested the fireworks get taken off of the table this year. Mayor Mills and Miller were in agreement. Roden suggested maybe holding the fireworks on New Years Eve instead. Anderson will look into.

Pardun noted that he and Miller received an email from Pastor Joel suggesting some sort of recognition for the 2020 Marine high school graduates. The idea would be to have the seniors stand in front of Marine Elementary and then have the residents drive by to recognize them. This would take place on May 27th between 6pm – 7pm. Roden suggested having a central location to collect graduation cards, such as Christ Lutheran Church. The Council consensus was to move forward.

EDA – No Report

Citizen Committee Reports

Green Step Cities – Leslie McKenzie reported on the Green Step Cities. The committee would like to schedule a workshop with the Council to review the Step 4 requirements. She is hoping to have this workshop in June. Three of the four signs have been received and the fourth should be sent soon. Clerk Peterson will send out a workshop request next week.

Communications Infrastructure – Feedback was received from Verizon which will be forwarded to the PC. The website upgrade is moving forward.

Consent Calendar – Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 4/9/20, Treasurer’s Report of 4/20, List of Bills for 5/14/20, Zoning Administrators Report None, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.

Roll call vote.

Anderson - Aye

Pardun - Aye

Miller - Aye

Roden - Aye

Mills - Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business – The Washington County Cooperative Weed Management Area agreement was presented last month. This agreement is a partnership with the County and requires no fiscal obligation by the City. Anderson believes this is a good opportunity for the City to receive potential grant money in the future.

Anderson moved and Roden seconded to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for a Cooperative Weed Management Agreement as presented. Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Roden Aye

Mills Aye

Pardu Aye

Miller Aye

Anderson Aye

Request by Dunrovin – Clerk Peterson received a request by Dunrovin Retreat Center to be added to the City garbage contract. Their contract with Advanced Disposal is up for renewal, and their costs are going up substantially. The Council was concerned that the City would be setting a precedent of letting businesses, especially one that is officially in May Township, piggyback on City services for their own financial gain. Anderson reminded the Council that the General Store’s request to connect to the City’s well was denied for that same reason.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to deny the request by Dunrovin Retreat Center to be added to the City garbage contract. Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Anderson aye

Miller aye

Roden aye

Mills aye

Pardun aye

Miller requested the Council approve having a flag made with the City logo to have in the Village hall, and also to begin using the new logo on all City stationary and vehicles. The Council was fine with that idea.

Long and Short Term Goals – No Change

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – No Report

Adjournment - *Anderson moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:59pm.*

Roll call vote.

Anderson - Aye

Pardun - Aye

Miller - Aye

Roden - Aye

Mills - Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk