

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 11, 2020

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

Citizens Present: Brent Peterson, Wendy Ward, Mike Tibbetts, Scott Spisak, John Goodfellow .
Via Zoom – Todd Mestad, Larry Martin, Jim Maher, Ryan Goodman, Leslie MacKenzie, Mike Hinz,

Approval of Agenda – Miller moved and Anderson seconded to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Considerations –

Brent Peterson – Washington County Historical Society – Mr. Peterson was in attendance on behalf of the Washington County Historical Society. The Society has reached capacity and needed to expand in order to continue serving the County. The County has purchased a new building to be used as the new museum and this requires funding from sources from around the County. They are requesting a total of \$15,000 from each community. Anderson questioned how much Scandia and St. Mary's Point have contributed. Mr. Peterson stated both communities donated \$5,000 for this year. Anderson discussed the Stonehouse Museum and the lack of volunteers and questioned if the Historical Society would be willing to help the City down the road to help maintain that building. Mr. Peterson has had conversations with members of the Civic Club regarding this subject and would be open to continuing those discussions. Anderson thought \$3,000 per year for 5 years sounded reasonable, and agreed to bring it to the table during the August budget talks.

Marla – River Radio is temporarily on hold for the summer, but summer programming will still be moving forward.

Planning Commission – Chairman Mroska reported that the STR draft is very close to being complete and the plan is to hold the public hearing sometime in July. The concern is whether the meeting should be held in person due to the Covid concerns and questioned whether Zoom could be an option. Anderson and Pardun both would like to see the hearing held in person because there tends to be connectivity issues with Zoom and they would like to make sure everyone is heard. The Elementary School was given as an option. Chairman Mroska would like to have the City Attorney attend the meeting to help answer questions. The Council thought that was a great idea. Pardun questioned why the draft ordinance had changed since the workshop where there was a consensus to most of the draft. Roden stated the group considered the workshop consensus were guidelines and that committee reconsidered a few of the items. Miller stated he believes there were only a few specific action items that were to go back to the committee and City Attorney for clarification. Anderson is also concerned with some of the items that were changed in the draft, including the number of STR's per district and number of days allowed for renting. Pardun's concern is that any workshop held by either the Council or Planning Commission is meant to come to a consensus that stands. Further discussion was held on the consensus from the workshop and

what was agreed upon. Pardun does not want there to be any ill feelings between the Council and Commission due to a misunderstanding. He believes the latest draft is the final from the Commission but does not reflect what the Council would like to see. The Council will send their comments on the draft to the City Clerk to distribute to Commission in hopes that they consider the Council's comments when putting the final draft together. Anderson also requested a list of which items were changed due to the City Attorney's opinion. Anderson also commended the Chairman on the work done thus far.

The Commission is also continuing to work on updating the Zoning Codes and the wireless communications ordinance. Anderson will be proposing a survey for residents on behalf of the communications committee and would like the Commission to review and comment and would like to be the liaison between the Council and the Commission on this issue. He would like to see a draft ordinance by the end of this year. Scott Spisak believes most of the current wireless communications ordinance is obsolete and needs to be re-written.

Public Safety – Covid-19 Signage – there have been social distancing signs ordered and placed around town.

Covid-19 Policy – Governor Waltz recently passed an executive order requiring all essential businesses to adopt a Covid-19 Preparedness Plan. Clerk Peterson presented a draft plan to the Council.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to accept the Covid-19 Preparedness Policy as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.

Anderson updated the Council on the Sex Offender Ordinance requirements. The City's ordinance would focus on Level 3 offenders with a conviction of possession of child pornography and nonfamilial sexual contact with a minor (under 16 years of age) for designated offenses.

Miller thanked Chief Malmgren and Councilman Anderson for their work on the Covid-19 issue.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reviewed the Engineering report.

Wendy Ward questioned the purchase of the sweeper if the item was not budgeted for and does not believe this was a wise purchase by the City. She believes that money could have been used for many other important items. Pardun explained that \$25,000 used to pay for the sweeper was specifically taken from the roads budget for equipment purchases, and therefore that money would not be used for General budget items. The decision was made quickly, however this piece of equipment is in excellent condition and a new sweeper is typically \$100,000. Anderson believes this purchase will save the City money in the long run and was a good purchase.

Personnel - No Report

Parks & Rec

Utility Box Project – Fitzie Heimdahl has submitted additional possibilities for the utility box project. He would like to pursue additional grants for additional wraps and is looking for Council support to move forward.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to allow the three additional utility boxes proposed by Fitzie Heimdahl be approved and to allow Mr. Heimdahl to move forward with pursuing additional grant opportunities. Motion passed unanimously.

River Wake Task Force – Miller reviewed the request from the May meeting to create a task force to address the wake issue on the St. Croix River. John Goodfellow was in attendance and presented a power point presentation on the goal of the task force, which is mostly education and awareness. Anderson would like any signage used to be simple, easy to read and has a very clear message, which makes the enforcement easier. Mr. Goodfellow outlined the scope as focusing on wake related issues, but also high speed boat traffic, noise levels, overfishing and unauthorized uses. Anderson believes that if the task force is successful with the signage and being the eyes and ears for the City, then he would deem this effort successful. Pardun noted there are no proposed members presented to Council. Miller stated the names will be presented for approval at the July meeting, and also that the task force will be done at the end of this boating season.

Migrating Bird Project – Anderson will work with Ms. Nienaber on selecting the plants and native grasses for the project.

Master Mill Stream Plan – Anderson would like to create a comprehensive plan for the Mill Stream waterway and also discussion of dedicated park land and future improvements. This would be a long-range conversation and plan.

Millsite – The number of visitors is up and the volunteers are continuing with the ongoing maintenance.

Urban Forest – No May meeting.

Cemetery – Several years ago the City engineer platted out the new addition at the maintenance shop property. Currently there are 105 cemetery lots remaining in the current location, however those remaining are sporadic and there are no longer groups of lots together. City staff would like to begin the process of moving forward with the expansion. Anderson is in support of moving forward with the plan.

Water Systems- No Report.

Holidays/Events – Roden proposed holding a July 4th parade, similar to what was done for Memorial Day. There would be no candy throwing, etc. but still a chance for the community to acknowledge the day and involve the community. Anderson would not be opposed, but believes

there is a lot of planning involved in a short amount of time and he will be out of town and therefore cannot help to plan. There has been talk of a citizen run parade that would happen with or without the City. Mayor Mills thought if someone from the Council wanted to help then that would be fine.

Anderson reported on the Founders Day event. The tables will be set 6 ft apart and held in Burris Park and will be held on August 23rd. The Riverside Hitmen have agreed to play this event at a reduced cost to the City.

Anderson also scheduled Hollywood Pyrotechnics for New Years Eve. Miller would like to save the money and skip it this year. After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to not have fireworks at all this year.

City Properties – Anderson questioned if there is any plan for playground equipment upkeep to make sure the equipment is safe. Pardun stated there is none at this time, but he will discuss with Public Works.

Citizen Committee Reports.

EDA – Wendy Ward questioned if the EDA has looked at the financial impact on the City due to Covid-19. Anderson does not believe there has been a major impact on the business with the exception of the Brookside and they seem to be doing okay and the General Store has been busier than usual. There has been no impact on the proposed charter school or their timeline.

Green Step Cities – The committee is working on scheduling a workshop to discuss how to move forward.

Communications Infrastructure – Anderson reported there will be a suggested survey created by the committee and that will be presented to the Planning Commission for comment and review. Once the ordinance amendment is complete, RFP's will be solicited for the cell tower. AT&T has submitted a letter of support for the tower. Valorie Bruggeman, on behalf of AT&T, questioned the timeline for the tower approval and believes it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to get this done as quickly as possible due to public safety concerns. Anderson stated there is a process that needs to happen and that the City is working diligently to complete that process however it will take some time.

The website is moving forward with design and content and should be ready for some public comment by July with the hope of having it live by the end of the year.

Miller requested City staff look into trademarking the City logo.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 5/14/20, Treasurer's Report of 5/20, List of Bills for 6/11/20, Zoning Administrators Report, Public*

Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business – Clerk Peterson presented a request to approve the Do Not Waive tort liability clause for the City insurance. By doing this, the City is protected against a lawsuit by capping the amount a person can collect from the City.

Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the Do Not Waive the tort liability clause. Motion passed unanimously.

Good Neighbor Award – Megan Lapos, Marine resident, organized a Free Recycling day for the purpose of getting the community together to gather items they no longer use. Anderson believes this was an excellent way to bring the community together during unprecedented times and would like to present Mrs. Lapos with some kind of Good Neighbor award at the July meeting to thank her for her efforts.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to present Megan Lapos with a Good Neighbor Award. Motion passed unanimously.

Valorie Dowell submitted a letter to the Council regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit within the City limits along Highway 95. The Council stated this issue has been discussed with MnDOT multiple times. The City was told that if a speed study is done, there is a chance that the 45 mph speed limit could be increased as the limit is set based upon the average speed of the drivers. Other measures have been taken to attempt to decrease the speed. For instance, the electronic speed sign was placed just north of town prior to the change from 55mph to 45 mph, the City contracts with Washington County several times per summer to have a Deputy patrol that stretch of the highway during the weekends and upgrading the crosswalk at Maple Street.

Pardun noted that the residents using the Zoom option could not hear much of the meeting. Mayor Mills will try to figure out a way to fix that issue for the July meeting.

Long and Short Term Goals – No Change

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment - Miller moved and Pardun seconded to adjourn at 9:05pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk