

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 6.07pm. Roden, Miller, Pardun and Mills present. Anderson Absent (comments submitted by email)

Citizens Present: Leslie MacKenzie, Peter Foster, Nancy Cosgriff, Kevin Hein, Patti/Mark Kraske, Juanita Ikuta, Anne Reich, Valorie Dowell, Liz Kelly

Leslie MacKenzie presented a power point presentation outlining the goals of the Green Step Committee and then reviewed the work plans. The committee requested the Council discuss whether they are in favor or not in favor of having the committee pursue each of the items presented.

The priority workplan was reviewed first as are as follows:

- **Becoming a Step 4 City** – Mills, Anderson, Roden and Miller in favor, Pardun not in favor.
- **Energy Assessment of Municipal Buildings** – The Council was mixed as the Village Hall and School have already had these assessments. 3 in favor, 2 against.
- **Renewable Energy** – The Council was in favor.
- **EV Charging** – Bill Miller questioned short/long term maintenance, staff time, changing technology and costs. Lon Pardun also mentioned the changing technology and mentioned that two locations in downtown were looked at as part of the Judd Street Revitalization project and deemed potential locations (Parker Street and the vacant gas station). Pardun also cautioned against considering the Elementary School as a catch all location for many of these projects as the hope is to have a Charter School in that space in the near future, which would impact the use.
- **Reduce Winter Salt** – Leslie mentioned a potential malfunction with the City equipment not spreading the salt evenly in the winter and suggested the City look into adding money to the City budget to rectify this issue. Pardun noted the City trucks are relatively new and does not believe they are malfunctioning. He noted there could be several reasons the salt stuck on a few occasions and does not believe the City needs to replace the equipment. Mayor Mills also commented on the potential liability on the City should it stop using salt on the roads during the winter. The City tries to use the minimal amount required to do the job and the Brine System used by the State of Minnesota would be too costly for the City to consider. The Council opted to set this issue aside and was not in favor of pursuing at this time.

Discussion was then held on the Tier 2 items:

- **Clean Safe Water** – The Council was in favor.
- **Septic Education** – Pardun noted the City is doing this now as it has more than one type of septic system, but the Council was in favor of additional education.
- **Dark Sky Pollinator** – The overall consensus was to move forward on the education piece; however, the Council was not in favor of changing any municipal lighting.
- **Community Resilience/Emergency Preparedness** – Mayor Mills stated the County and the Fire Department currently have Emergency Management plans that are available to

residents to review. Leslie stated this plan would not involve the County or Public Safety Department, but focus on neighbor to neighbor support. Pardun believes this is redundant to what is out there already. The consensus was that more information was needed and the Council is not in favor as it is presented.

- **Municipal Resilience** - The Council was not in favor of moving forward on this.

Discussion was then held on the Tier 3 items:

- **Residential Energy** – Roden mentioned that Xcel Energy already offers homeowners an energy audit for their home. Anderson and Roden were concerned about potential privacy issues related to the drone suggestion. The Council was not in favor.
- **Business Development** – Not in favor.
- **Organic Waste** – Concerns were raised on issues like animals, odor and whether the residents would be interested in the idea. The Council was split and a suggestion was made to see if this is something the Folk School would be interested in doing a class on.
- **Fix it Clinic** – The Council was in favor.
- **Material Exchange** – Washington County currently offers something like this, and there was concern that the City would end up with all of the leftover materials that residents did not want. Anderson noted Marine also has an active barter/trade facebook page designed for this. The consensus was not in favor.
- **EV Fleet** – The Council does not believe this would be cost effective and the City uses very little fuel as is so they were not in favor.
- **EV Future** – The Council was not in favor of the City leading this, but Roden thought educational articles in the newspaper/newsletter would be beneficial.
- **Shared Transit** – The consensus was there is not a demand or need for this in Marine, and other agencies (Community Thread, County) are already working on this issue. Pardun also noted that Christ Lutheran Church will give this kind of assistance to residents in need.
- **Better Burning** – Roden suggested this could be a newsletter article, but the overall consensus was not in favor.

Liz Kelly questioned why the Council does not seem in favor of educating residents on so many of these issues. Pardun believes many of these issues people are already aware of. He believes that when volunteers put so much time and energy into a project, many times the outcome is not what they hoped for. The Council has a lot to weigh on which items to move forward with – consideration of overall time spent on each item both for City staff and volunteers, resources available, and long-term maintenance. Bill Miller also noted there is a core group of people doing the majority of the volunteering, and questioned how long that can be sustained. He would like to see some of the new families in town be engaged somehow. A suggestion was made to add these links and education information to the City website, which the Council thought would be a good idea.

- **Raingarden Maintenance** – The Council was in favor.

- **Community Garden** –_The consensus was mixed. There were questions of location, cost and long-term maintenance.
- **Marine Orchard** –_The Council had the same questions as the previous item. Would like those issues addressed before moving forward.
- **Walk/Bike Active Living** –_Not in favor. The City already promotes the walking/biking trails and volunteers are already grooming the trails.
- **Marine Explorers Club** –_In favor.

The committee members thanked the Council for participating and the next step will be for them to prioritize the items the Council would like to move forward with. Once that is done, the committee would like to hold another workshop to lay out the additional details for how to move forward.

Roden moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:46pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk