

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, August 13, 2020

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

Citizens Present: Anne Reich, Jeff Comins, John Waugh, Dorothy Deetz, Kitzi Vadheim, Leslie McKenzie, Peter Foster, Andy/Karen Kramer, Larry Whitaker, John Goodfellow, Gerry Mrosla, Mary Whitaker, Pat Pardun, Jim Maher, Ryan Goodman, Wendy Ward, Nancy Cosgriff, Valoree Dowell

Approval of the Agenda – Pardun moved and Roden seconded to approve the agenda as drafted.

Roden - yes

Anderson - yes

Miller -yes

Pardun -yes

Mills -yes

All in favor, motion passes.

Citizens Considerations – Wendy Ward was in attendance to advise the Council of a land purchase she is pursuing. The land is a 12 acre piece behind Rosabel Street and contains black ash seep. Ms. Ward is working with Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust to obtain an easement for buckthorn management. She is looking for verbal support from the Council to bring back to Washington County. Anderson thank Ms. Ward for bringing this issue to the Council and questioned how this may interplay with existing City trails in that area. Ms. Ward believes the City could work with the Land Trust and County to improve this area and enhance the City trails. The Council consensus was favorable for this project.

Win Miller – Mr. Miller reported the Marine Village School has pulled the application for 2021 due to the pandemic and plans to resubmit for 2022.

Marla – Jim Maher reported the summer reading program had good participation this year. The curbside pick up is working well. The interior redesign is moving forward, and the fall programs will be beginning soon. The library would be interested in conducting a candidate forum for the upcoming local election. The Council thought that was a great idea and thank Mr. Maher for the offer.

Planning Commission - Chairman Mrosla updated the Council on the July meeting. The public hearing was held for the proposed STR ordinance. A public hearing was held for Dan Willenbring and a public hearing was set for Tim Casey on Nason Hill. The communication committee is working on the cell tower ordinance and they are continuing to work on the zoning ordinance.

STR Ordinance – Anderson reviewed several grammatical errors in the draft and suggested that

Section 5, (O) be amended to by changing the “ who to call” document to “who to contact: Miller suggested some sort of public comment period at the time of the license renewal. Pardun noted there is always a chance for the public to comment and believes this is true for all licenses. Anderson referred to the section of the ordinance that requires Council approval for any renewal and also believes that any comment sent to the City Clerk is sent on to the Council for review which then would be read at a City Council meeting. Pardun presented a few amendments. The first is on page 3 section 4 (A) to add “provided, however, that Short-Term Rentals located exclusively within the Central Business District shall not be subject to the restrictions of this Ordinance” – Section 5, H – Pardun would like to add accessory buildings to the list of restricted locations for rental.

Anderson questioned page 6, Q and would like to clarify that any complaint form be filed in the licensee’s property file.

Anderson addressed enforcement. The Council relies on its citizens to help with enforcement given its limited staffing resources and believes the ordinance as written addresses this issue in a satisfactory manner.

The number of allowed licenses per district was discussed. Pardun reviewed the number of homes in each district and given the size of most districts believes 3 is a satisfactory number. Pardun also believes this ordinance will change throughout time and things will be adjusted. He also believes that the City cannot be too restrictive for legal reasons.

Roden questioned the Village Center restriction. Pardun noted that the Village Center does not meet the residential requirements that are listed in the ordinance but the City does not want to preclude them from having an STR.

Andy Kramer does not believe the ordinance defines multi-family housing and does not explain why the school house apartments are excluded in the overall STR count. Anderson stated the owner of the apartments is not able to fill the apartments with full time tenants, so the STR option helps him to bring people in and fill those units. The definition of multi-family housing can be looked into further, however Anderson does not believe that should hold up taking action on the proposed ordinance at this time.

John Goodfellow would like a more active notice to the residents when the license renewal comes due. Roden noted the all licenses will expire December 31 of each year. Anderson suggested the City could add to the 4th quarter newsletter as a reminder. Miller also noted there is a 60 day renewal period.

Larry Whitaker appreciates that the public will have a chance to comment prior to the renewal. He would like to see the allowance for LLC’s and corporations removed. He would also like to see a cost benefit analysis done and a provision for spacing STR locations.

Miller noted that Section 3 and Section 5 both address the dedicated STR (LLC / Corporation)

issue. Miller also noted that the residents have a chance to comment on any STR at any time. Section 6 also addresses the revoking of a license due to complaints, so the Council is confident that these concerns are addressed within the ordinance.

John Goodfellow requested the Council packet be available to the residents prior to the day of the meeting. Pardun noted that much of the material does not come in until days prior to the meeting and so it is difficult to have all the information available in advance.

Roden moved and Pardun seconded to adopt Ordinance 156 regulating short term rentals and prohibiting unpermitted short term rentals with the stated amendments.

Pardun - yes

Miller - yes

Anderson - yes

Roden - yes

Mills - yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to set the submission date for the STR licenses for November 1st 2020 for review by the City Council at the December 2020 meeting.

Roden – yes

Anderson – yes

Miller – yes

Pardun – yes

Mills – yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Fire and Rescue – There will be an appreciation outdoor BBQ held in September at Dunrovin. Anderson addressed the number of tourists on the weekend who are not wearing masks or social distancing. The City doing everything it can with signage and the MDH has confirmed with Anderson that both the City and the local businesses are doing what they are supposed to. The issue with the number of people at the Brookside socializing outside is a difficult situation and the Brookside is doing the best it can to handle this situation.

Roads – Ryan Goodman reported on the Judd Street project. SHPPO has finally responded and has determined there will be adverse effect. This allowed the advertisement for bid to go out last Friday with a bid opening scheduled for September 3rd. The City will need to pass a resolution accepting the cooperative agreement with MnDOT.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to accept Resolution 2008123-01

Roden – yes
Anderson – yes
Miller – yes
Pardun – yes
Mills - yes

Motion passed unanimously

Personnel - No Report.

Parks & Rec –

Millsite – Anne Reich reported there have been over 11,000 visitors this year. Benches were installed honoring Jack Warren and Charles Arnason.

Urban Forest – The shrubs and trees for the migrating bird project will be delivered August 23rd. The committee would like to hold off on the planting until September to coincide with the gravel bed plantings but will stay with the August date as planned if Council prefers. The locations will be in Burris Park and the Bandstand park. The committee is reviewing information on the Emerald Ash Borer for residents. Anderson is concerned with Ms. Nienaber’s timeline as this is a 4-H project and believes the committee should discuss the timeline with her and see what she needs to meet her project guidelines.

Anderson questioned if the cemetery has been looked at in terms of tree replacement. Pardun would like the committee to touch base with Public Works on the location of any tree placement. Leslie McKenzie noted the funding secured for the Ravine project behind the general store has been lost through Green Corp.

Cemetery – Mayor Mills noted the City will be looking at the new addition.

City Properties– No Report.

Water Systems -Pardun reported on the sewer system potential connections. A letter will be sent to the residents who currently have individual systems but that the City owns. There has also been a question by residents looking to connect to see if they could pay the fee over a 5 year period via their utility bill.

Pardun would also like to amend the City Code to address any new resident requesting to connect to City sewer that they must place the tank in a location that is above the water table.

Pardun moved and Roden seconded to prorate the septic connection fee over a 5 year period to the utility bill.

Pardun moved and Anderson seconded to allow Eric Larsen to work with the City t

P-1 Station Upgrade – As part of the septic system upgrade, the lift station at P-1 will need a backup generator. The most cost effective option would be a trailered generator versus a stationary generator. The proposed cost of the upgrade is \$137,989. There is currently \$34,000 set aside for the generator purchase. The cost of the upgrade would be taken from the wastewater reserve funds. The ravine project will begin in September. This will affect the traffic on Highway 95 going north, moving the lanes over to the west for approximately 30 days.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the system upgrade at P-1 in the amount of \$137,989.

Citizen Committee Reports

City Properties – No Report

Green Step Cities - Leslie McKenzie reported the committee has met with the MPCA to review what is needed to move forward with Step 4. The EV charging group met with Councilmember Pardun on potential locations.

Holidays/Events – Anderson reported Marine Mills Day is still scheduled for August 23rd.

EDA – No Report.

Communication Infrastructure – Mayor Mills noted that he and the City Clerk have been working with Midco to upgrade the internet and phone lines. Anderson is working with the Assistant Clerk on getting the new website up very soon. Washington County communicated that during a recent emergency at William O'Brien State Park, the cell service was almost non-existent making coordination extremely difficult.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Pardun seconded to approve the Minutes of 7/9/20, Treasurer's Report of 7/20, List of Bills for 8/13/20, Zoning Administrators Report-none, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes.*

Roden-yes

Anderson-yes

Pardun-yes

Miller-yes

Mills – yes

Motion passed unanimously

Old/New Business –

Wayside Rest Porta Potties – Roden questioned if the porta potties at the Wayside rest could be moved north closer to Maple Street so they are not right next to the Brookside dumpsters. Jason Crotty suggested if they are moved to a more public area then the Council should consider screening.

2019 Proposed Reserve Funds – Clerk Peterson presented the proposed reserve fund allocations from the 2019 budget. These were delayed to allow for the completion of the 2018 and 2019 audits with the new auditor.

Pardun moved and Miller seconded to approve the proposed 2019 reserve fund allocations as presented.

*Pardun yes
Roden yes
Miller yes
Anderson yes
Mills yes*

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

County grant funding – The Secretary of States office was allocated grant money to cities for Covid-19 related elections expenses. The allocation for the City of Marine is \$683.57. Washington County has the opportunity to use all or some of those funds for the additional cost of the absentee balloting process. Two resolutions have been presented for consideration. The resolution for Option A directs the City to allocate all of their allocated grant dollars to Washington County and option B allows the City to the amount of allocated funds as necessary to cover their Covid related expenses, and make the remaining balance available to use by Washington County.

Anderson moved and Miller seconded to approve Resolution 200813-01, which allows for Option B.

*Anderson yes
Miller yes
Roden yes
Pardun yes
Mills yes*

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Billy McLaughlin Hall Rental Request – Mr. McLaughlin will be hosting a concert on October 3, and again every Sunday from November 29 through December 23rd. Because the capacity restrictions due to Covid-19 only allow for 25%, Mr. McLaughlin is requesting a reduction in the

rental fee. The Council would like Mr. McLaughlin to present a proposal for the amount of the reduction..

Budget meeting dates – The initial budget meeting will be held on August 20th at 6:00pm, with a follow up meeting on August 26th if necessary.

.Anderson would like to remove all non-permitted boats from the landing. Public Works will address this next week.

_.Long/Short Term Goals – No Changes

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report – None

Adjournment . Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 9:15pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk