

## CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 2018

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

Citizens Present: Charlie Anderson, Larry Roden, Gwen Roden, Win Miller, Jim Maher, Gerry Mrosla, Larry Whitaker, Mary Whitaker, Beth Hontschlager, Gayle Knutson

Planning Commission- Chairman Mrosla reviewed the August meeting. There was a pre-application for a minor subdivision into 3 lots on the approximately 16-acre property located on St. Croix Trail, which he along with Commissioners Ron Brenner and Scott Spisak are reviewing. Mrosla noted that this would be the first subdivision since 2010, and MNDOT approval is still needed for the proposed 3 driveways. Mrosla added that grading would have to be done on the north entrance as it is very steep. There were soil boring tests done in 1983, but the site would only be suitable for mound systems. Mills noted that the Watershed District would also likely be involved. There are also conservation easements to consider. Willenbring said that density requirements could allow for 3, one-acre lots, with 13 acres as an open space outlot. There were questions regarding minimum lot size for minor versus major subdivisions.

The Commission will also begin reviewing short-term rentals in September, using research from the cities of Burnsville and Stillwater. Mrosla expects a report to the Council sometime in 2019.

The pre-application for 1051 Nason Hill Road is on hold. Mrosla, along with Brenner and Commissioner Gwen Roden met with the applicant and found that the site would require multiple variances with both the existing garage and the proposed garage. Mrosla noted that the property presents serious practical difficulty being directly on the bluffline.

Fire and Rescue- Chief Dan Malmgren responded to questions at the August City Council meeting about the Fire Department Facebook page. Malmgren said the page is 4 or 5 years old, instituted by former Chief David Denn. It is run by Mike Aspengren with oversight by Malmgren. Miller emphasized the City's policy of not disseminating official information on Facebook. Malmgren said it is more of an advertisement and recruitment tool.

The Department has shifts scheduled for the Art Fair this weekend. Malmgren also reported that Mark Kraske has joined the department, and the City of Scandia would like to donate their old SCBA to the City of Marine.

*Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to approve Mark Kraske as a probationary member. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Mowery moved and Willenbring seconded to accept the donation of the SCBA from the City of Scandia. Motion passed unanimously.*

Roads - Ryan Goodman reviewed the engineering report. The draft Comprehensive Plan has been submitted to surrounding communities for comments. The paving for the street project is expected to start on Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup>. The contractor was also directed to put water on the roads to alleviate some of the dust. The contractor has requested final payment from the Council with an expected completion date in October. Miller mentioned that better communication is needed from the contractor to the residents in the future. Goodman is also in contact with the County to finish the County Road 4 project.

*Willenbring moved and Pardun seconded to approve the final pay request in the amount of \$115,555.52. Motion passed unanimously.*

Personnel/Building Inspector- No report.

#### Parks & Recreation

Urban Forest Ordinance Draft-Miller advised the Council to review the red-lined version for approval at the October meeting. There was some language added about donations, warranties, and the right of way. Resident Win Miller expressed concern over the power the Urban Forest Committee has to declare trees public nuisances. He suggested adding “and recognized as such by a resolution of the City Council” into Section 4.4 to correct this, and Council agreed.

Gateway Trail-Miller reported that there is movement on the south side of Marine with two more easements nearing completion. Residents Ryan Marsel, Andy Powell, and Charlie Anderson have been involved. He shared that the Master Plan for William O’Brien Park will then need to be changed to incorporate the Gateway going through it. Scandia also has most of their easement done. The Joint Powers Agreement gives the City of Marine complete control, and Miller said that there will be many public meetings to come if other residents would like to get involved.

Miller also reported on a potential trail connecting, mountain biking area on the Anson property. In the winter it would be a ski area. This would again require a master plan. Charlie Anderson was present and explained that the hope is to connect the Anson addition into the Gateway as a natural entrance into the park. Miller said they are in discussions with the railroad on how this might be accomplished.

Finance/LRP - *Pardun moved and Miller seconded to set the maximum levy for 2019 at \$885,334.92, which represents a 0.03% decrease from 2018. Motion passed unanimously.*

Cemetery-Jason Crotty was present and reported that the restoration project of the Cemetery Road was completed.

Wastewater and Water Systems- No additional report.

#### Citizen Committee Reports

Village Center Task Force-Resident Fizzie Heimdahl would like an answer from the Council regarding grant funding he received through ArtReach, which would cover four boxes in addition to those that were approved at the August meeting. The Council agreed to keep the grant funding for additional boxes and decide which ones at a later date.

WashCo/EDA Program-Miller reported that the Washington County EDA has money still available through financing, loans, and grants, one of which has helped the General Store purchase a generator. Resident Wendy Ward asked if the EDA could assist with economic development studies for potential businesses moving forward. Miller said they could, more likely so after the Comprehensive Plan is finished.

MarLa-Beth Honestschlager updated the Council. There are new books selected by the Collection Committee, as well as the new AV equipment upstairs, which more volunteers are learning how to operate. Summer children’s programming was very successful, and the library is considering monthly story times in the future. The library is also going to start game nights again during the school year. For adult programming, Carroll Henderson is coming September 20th, and documentary nights start again on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The library’s annual fundraiser will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>, with a silent

auction and the New Standards performing. The library will also be hosting a City Council candidate forum on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, moderated by resident Jim Maher.

Hall/Restoration- The punch list is complete and the final bill is in the list of bills.

Stormwater/Watershed - No report.

Millsite- Mowery reported that he had received sample pictures of what the observation deck replacement might look like. The City is insured and working with the Historical Society on this.

Green Step Cities- No report.

Holidays- Gwen Roden was in attendance to present a donation to the fireworks fund from Nita Mae's scoop.

*Mowery moved and Miller seconded to accept the donation of the \$219.25 from Nita Mae's Scoop for the fireworks fund. Motion passed unanimously.*

School Property- Pardun reported that the City has reached a tentative agreement with the school district and is currently working on a purchase agreement. There will then be a series of public meetings regarding next steps.

Consent Calendar – *Miller moved and Mowery seconded to approve the Minutes of 8/9/18, Treasurer's Report 8/18, List of Bills to be paid for 9/13/18, Planning Commission Minutes, Zoning Administrator's Report, and Public Works Maintenance Report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business- Miller reported that with the few options residents have for internet service, Frontier or Midcontinent, Scandia is doing a communication study funded by grants to learn more about connectivity with fiber and high-speed internet. Miller thinks it may be worthwhile for Marine to do a similar study. Charlie Anderson recently met with Midco. The current agreement the City has is through 2023 and needs cleaning up. The coax cabling currently covers 70% of Marine, with a required 20 housing units per mile for cable to be delivered along the right of way. It is \$60,000 per cable mile. In Scandia, it was discovered that fiber optic would cost \$7,000 per household. There was also discussion of HIVE technology. The Council deemed it worthwhile to explore this further, possibly through grant funding.

Long/Short Term Goals- No changes.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report- No report.

Miller moved and Mowery seconded to close the public meeting at 8:03pm pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 113D.05 Subd 3c3-to discuss personnel issues.

Mayor Mills re-opened the public meeting at 8:54pm.

*Willenbring moved and Mowery seconded to sustain the decision relating to the pending personnel matter according to reasons set forth in the Chief's recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.*

Adjournment- Mowery moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:56pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Kiersten Young, Assistant City Clerk