

City of Marquette, MI



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, May 11, 2026
4:00 PM
Commission Chambers

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan
49855

Work Session

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Announcements

Mayor Schloegel had no announcements.

1. Discussion - Future Use of Jacobetti Veteran Home Property

The work session focused on the future of the state-owned DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans on Fisher Street, which is expected to become vacant in the next couple of years.

Staff said the site is surrounded by residential, multifamily, civic, and institutional uses, and is located within an area identified in the Community Master Plan as part of the historic core, where compact, walkable, mixed-use and housing-oriented development is encouraged. Staff said there are a couple of possible futures for the property and said they were hoping to use this work session in order to get a sense of the direction the Commission hopes to ultimately go in.

As the state moves toward building a replacement veterans home, the property may be available for acquisition, and staff said the location could be the site of future medium- to high-density housing. Additionally, there was also discussion about the concept that it could be the site of a new law enforcement facility that Marquette County has expressed a need for; this new facility would include a larger jail, sheriff department relocation, possible support-service space, and potential partnership opportunities involving the City Police Department.

Discussion acknowledged practical reasons the County may be interested in the

location, including the need for the sheriff's administrative offices to remain in the county seat, proximity to courts, proximity to the hospital, and existing coordination between the City Police Department and Sheriff's Office.

Several Commissioners, however, noted that that proposal raised concerns for the City, including the possible need to relocate city offices, uncertainty around a long-term Police Department lease or partnership, continued non-taxable public ownership of the site, the loss of a major housing opportunity, and the fact that the cascading impacts would largely fall on the City to solve.

Several commissioners advocated for the City being active in the decision-making around the property, and voiced support for some form of housing on the site, describing housing as one of the City's most pressing long-term needs, especially given high demand, limited supply, rising costs, an aging population, and possible future climate impacts. Staff and commissioners indicated that the City's broader planning documents identify housing as a need and this location as a prime site that may be one of the best remaining opportunities to add meaningful housing in a walkable area near services, transit, and downtown.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

Orville Dishno said this seems like it will be a big project for the City, and said he recalls meetings where the extent of the housing issues were made clear by public speakers. He said he thinks the city should focus on adding housing and on getting properties like this one on the tax rolls.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the work session at 5:10 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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