



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, January 9, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Mayer, Ottaway, Smith, Stonehouse

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the agenda with the relocation of Item 9 to after the Comments from the City Manager, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Mayer had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Patricia Sala, Downtown Development Authority, for a term ending 01-01-27

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

2. Reappointment(s)

Ryan Stern, Downtown Development Authority, for a term ending 01-01-27

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the reappointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

James Gallant spoke about Commission rules, parliamentary procedure and attorneys. Barb Owdziej shared concerns about snow removal and plowing schedules and about the impact that the City schedule can have on residents.

Mark Schneider said that the two recent fires in the Birch Grove Mobile Home Community may have made people in the area nervous. He suggested the City do something to calm any public concern, whether it is increased fire inspections or simple

outreach to the residents.

Presentation(s)

3. Board of Review, by Mark Schneider

Mark Schneider offered a brief presentation about the previous year of activity for the Board of Review, and then answered questions from the Commission.

Public Hearing(s)

4. Community Development Block Grant

No members of the public chose to speak during the public hearing.

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Community Development Block Grant application and authorize all signatures related to the submission of the application, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

5. Marquette Township PA 425 Agreement

Mayor Mayer opened the public hearing for this item.

Marquette Township Supervisor Lyn Durant talked about the agreement, and said Longyear is waiting to move forward until they know whether this agreement is reached.

James Gallant spoke about Robert's Rules of Order and the Marquette Township Board.

Margaret Brumm said this agreement seems like it produces benefits for both sides.

With no one waiting to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the 425 agreement with the Township of Marquette and authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to sign it, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

6.a. Approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 regular Commission meeting

6.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,262,889.31

6.c. 2023 Winter Games at Marquette Mountain

6.d. HUD Section 3 Policy

6.e. Master Agreement to Purchase Services (In-Home Services)

6.f. Proclamation - Intestinal Malrotation and Volvulus Awareness Day

6.g. Senior Services - Master Agreement to Purchase Services

New Business

7. Letter of Resignation of Commissioner Evan Bonsall

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to accept the letter of resignation from Commissioner Evan Bonsall, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse.

Commissioner Smith thanked Bonsall for his service and for helping to move the needle on some important issues in the City.

Commissioner Stonehouse wished Bonsall well.

Commissioner Hanley said the City was lucky to have Bonsall as long as they did and she said people could take notes on his involvement in his community.

Mayor Mayer said they all appreciate the years of service given to the City by Commissioner Bonsall.

The Commission then voted on the motion to accept Commissioner Bonsall's letter of resignation. The motion carried 6-1, with Commissioner Hanley voting no.

8. Procedure to Fill City Commission Vacancy

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Authorize the City Clerk to make City Commission application forms available online and in the Clerk's Office, and to accept applications from interested parties until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023; and to then proceed with the appointment of a new City Commissioner at the January 30, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Barb Owdziej spoke more about the plowing and snow removal concerns she brought up earlier. She said she would like to see vehicles, bikes and pedestrians treated the same. She said she is sad to see Commissioner Bonsall leave and she welcomed Commissioner Ottaway.

James Gallant spoke about parliamentary procedure, the City ethics ordinance and trainings for board and committee members.

Margaret Brumm spoke about the history and current state of the Cliffs-Dow property.

Pete Frazier commented on Commissioner Bonsall's resignation and said the 425 agreement and the related project seem beneficial.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Stonehouse read from the City Commission's adopted Rules of Procedure, which state that Robert's Rules of Order will be used only for guidance. He said he attended a National Guard ceremony where the 107th Engineer Battalion prepared to deploy for the better part of a year. He said these are our friends and neighbors and their task is not an easy one.

Commissioner Bonsall, responding to public comments, said the City Commission has adopted a housing plan, through the Ad Hoc Housing Committee. He thanked Barb Owdziej for her insight into pedestrian safety and mobility, and he said it might be important to focus on street plans and mobility as we move forward, with a focus on pedestrian safety and mobility.

Turning to his resignation, Commissioner Bonsall thanked his colleagues and the constituents that voted for him when he was just 22. He said his time on the Commission was occasionally frustrating, but very rewarding. He encouraged people to get involved. and thanked those who helped him in his campaigning efforts. He thanked his family, friends, and wife. He said he hopes the community continues to honor public service and respect it and hopes they continue to encourage residents to get involved to keep Marquette what it is.

Commissioner Hanley thanked Commissioner Bonsall for the wisdom he has shared and the time he has dedicated to the City. She also wished Commissioner Smith a happy birthday.

Commissioner Ottaway said the DDA is offering a free parking session through the Passport mobile app, and said those with questions can reach out to the DDA or to him directly. He also said the DDA is looking at a farmers market rebrand and he thinks local talent should look into that. Commissioner Ottaway said he's sorry to see Commissioner Bonsall leave and said his research indicates that in last November's election, Bonsall received more votes than any local Commission candidate in history.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis recognized the recent passing of Jim Susorney, who was very involved in the community, including as an active member of City boards and committees. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said the recent minutes of the Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee have indicated a true sincerity and she thanked those members. She wished Commissioner Bonsall well and thanked him for his service. Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she hopes to see a robust slate of candidates apply, and she hopes that citizens reach out to the Commission to give their opinions on the candidates that ultimately apply.

Commissioner Smith thanked Barb for her comments on the snow removal issues and said it's an important topic. She talked about the Birchview comments made by Mark Schneider and asked for a bit of follow up on that. Commissioner Smith mentioned the City Master Plan survey is out and said she was disappointed to see that childcare is not listed as a focus area for respondents to choose. She urged people to mention childcare in the 'other' topic area. Finally, she thanked Commissioner Bonsall for his service and wished him well in the future.

Mayor Mayer thanked staff for the work, especially on things like the Community Development Block Grant and PA425 Agreement. He said the items are dealt with quickly in the meeting, but often take months of staff work ahead of time. He welcomed Commissioner Ottaway, said offered best wishes to Commissioner Bonsall in his future endeavors. Finally, he urged residents to take the Community Master Planning survey, and to sign up for future updates on the process.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said it had been an honor to work with Commissioner Bonsall and wished him luck. She said her next community office hours are scheduled for Jan. 11 at the library. She offered an overview of the City Master Plan survey and said participation is important.

9. Former Cliffs-Dow Site Project Status Update

This item was moved down the agenda and followed Comments from the City Manager.

The Cliffs-Dow project team, represented by Rich Baron and Ryan Whaley, provided the City Commission with an update on the Cliffs-Dow property. This presentation was a brief version of the one that was shared with the Commission in the Work Session that preceded the meeting, and included an operational history of the property and an overview of the previous and ongoing work done by the team, which includes TriMedia and the firm of Foley, Baron, Metzger and Juip. Baron and Whaley shared updates on environmental testing data.

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to enter into Closed Session in order to consider information subject to the attorney-client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

The Commission entered closed session at 8:02 p.m., and returned to Open Session at 8:44 p.m.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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