



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2021
6:00 PM

Commission Chambers (Zoom Video Conferencing)

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Mayor Smith. Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Commissioners Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Mayer and Stonehouse.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith praised the City Finance department, which recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This award is presented in recognition of the City's comprehensive annual financial report. The Mayor also shared information about glass recycling in the City.

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

As the meetings are still being held without the public present, residents were given the opportunity to call in and speak or submit written public comments to be read during the meeting.

Jacy Madden and Eric Berg both wrote to share their concerns about the cost and availability of housing in the City of Marquette.

Presentation(s)

1. Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee, by Nina van den Ende

Nina van den Ende gave an update on the work of the Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee.

In follow-up, Commissioners discussed certain sections of the City street network, including Front Street as it heads south out of town, the traffic light at the intersection of McClellan Avenue and Ridge Street and about intersections with three-way stops.

Commissioners suggested that the Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee review the recent report from the Ad Hoc Housing Advisory Committee and consider the impacts of some of the recommendations.

2. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

- 2.a. Approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular Commission meeting.**
- 2.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,155,155.27**
- 2.c. Fire Department Turnout Gear**
- 2.d. Police Dell Laptops**

Unfinished Business

3. City Manager Replacement Process – Subcommittee Reappointment

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Authorize the reappointment of the City Manager Search Committee consisting of Commissioners Davis, Mayer and Stonehouse with the responsibility to evaluate proposals for firms and recommend to the City Commission the best qualified to lead the Commission through the City Manager search process, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

New Business

4. Contract Modification for BP 17-11 Solid Waste Collection Services – Curbside Residential

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to approve the proposed second amendment to the City of Marquette Solid Waste Services contract for curbside collection service with Waste Management, Inc. of Marquette, Michigan, and a corresponding amendment to the solid waste services section of the adopted City of Marquette Fiscal Year 2021 Fee Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Hanley. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners voiced concerns and uncertainty about the increase adopted by the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, which was justified as a COVID-related increase. As it was necessitated by COVID, there should be a sunset on the increase, many suggested. Additionally, commissioners said they were unsure how the MCSMWA decided on an increase of \$4, specifically.

City Manager Angeli indicated that the MCSWMA has been told the City would prefer a sunset in this increase. He said the City has two representatives on the authority board, and that the City has requested the board send a summary of each monthly meeting, in addition to the minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill then moved to amend the main motion, authorizing the increase only through July 1, seconded by Commissioner Stonehouse and carried unanimously.

The Commission then voted on the main motion, now to approve the proposed second amendment to the City of Marquette Solid Waste Services contract for curbside collection service with Waste Management, Inc. of Marquette, Michigan, through July 1, 2021. This motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no public comment at this point.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Bonsall thanked staff for assistance in helping to prepare the Ad Hoc Housing Committee draft report, which was completed recently, and he encouraged all residents to look at the report. He said there have been issues with the glass recycling, which should be placed out during the first full week of every month. He said the City is looking at how to better communicate with residents about this. Commissioner Bonsall said he was appointed recently to the Protect Michigan Commission, which is aimed at informing and educating the state about the COVID19 vaccine. He said he was also recently appointed to a Michigan Municipal League legislative policy committee.

Commissioner Davis thanked City staff for the work to keep the multi-use path cleared so well this winter.

Commissioner Hanley said she agrees with the earlier public comments that middle housing is missing in the City. She said the sale approved at the past meeting though, was approved roughly a year ago, and this was an action to approve a development agreement. Missing middle housing, she said, will likely not be found along the lakeshore.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill reminded people that the first full week of each month would be used for only glass recycling, and suggested finding a clever way to inform the public. She said the Commission had a work session about the lakeshore and the land near the old Cliffs-Dow property - she suggested people go online and watch the video and share their opinions. She urged residents to stay vigilant with masking and social distancing and praised the local health workers helping with the vaccine rollout.

Commissioner Mayer said he has been on active military orders, but that he will be taking part in meetings remotely as often as he can.

Commissioner Stonehouse said the Commission appreciated Commissioner Mayer's service. He said he has received the first dose of the COVID vaccine and that the entire process went very smoothly. He said the affordable housing discussion is very popular, and he suggested that the commission postpone the discussion until the meetings can take in-person, to more adequately engage the public.

Mayor Smith said she feels the work session can be transparent, and that she views that meeting as the beginning of a very long process. Mayor Smith addresses the two public comments from earlier - she said she understands the concerns and gave a quick overview of the Founders Landing parcel being discussed. She shared a resident's positive experience with the City Police Department.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Mike Angeli said the City is pretty much done selling and developing the Founders Landing property. He said staff plans to bring a full plan for the Lakeshore Boulevard project back to the Commission for approval, so there will be opportunities for public input. He shared an update on recovery grants that may benefit the City, and he shared an update on the Williams Park tennis courts.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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