



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, January 30, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to amend the agenda, removing Item #5 with the intention of it being relocated to the next regular meeting agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis. Commissioner Stonehouse stated that the item, regarding the possible sale of City property, was important enough that he would like to see a full Commission available to make the decision. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The Mayor said he would like to appoint Commissioner Smith to a City Manager-City Attorney compensation subcommittee. Commissioner Smith would join Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Commissioner Stonehouse on that group.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Wallace Pearson, Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 4-1-23 and for the subsequent term ending 4-1-26.

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse 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 noted that the Commission would soon be filling the seat vacated by former Commissioner Evan Bonsall, who she said was well-supported in the community. She asked Commissioners to keep that in mind and to focus on Mr. Bonsall's goals and vision for the community when deciding who is best suited to replace him.

Presentation(s)

2. Public Art Commission, by Chair Tracy Wascom

Tracy Wascom shared an update on the previous year of Public Art Commission activities. She focused on projects completed and on future plans, and then showed a video highlighting the Fast Break basketball court mural project in Hurley Park.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Commission work session

3.b. Approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular Commission meeting

3.c. Approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Commission closed session

3.d. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,566,614.81

3.e. 2022 Audit Engagement Letter and Audit Planning Letter

3.f. CDBG Certifying Officer Authorization - Roll Call Vote

3.g. CDBG Consultant Contract Amendment

3.h. GEI Change Order - Tourist Park SHPO Review

3.i. LSCP Lease Termination

3.j. Ordinance 718 - Marihuana Establishment Licensing

3.k. Signature Approval for 2013 Capital Improvement Bonds Assignment

New Business

4. City Commission Rules of Procedure #2003-01

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the City Commission Rules of Procedure #2003-01, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

5. Marquette County Central Dispatch Policy Board Appointment

Mayor Mayer stated that he would announce his appointment at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Authorize the Mayor to nominate a City representative for the Policy Board for a term ending December 31, 2023, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

6. City Commissioner Appointment

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to utilize paper ballots to arrive at a consensus in order to appoint a new City Commissioner, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis.

Prior to calling for a vote on the motion, Mayor Mayer explained the process that was to follow, and then provided a privileged comment period to the applicants in attendance at the meeting. Peter Frazier, Cary Gottlieb, Michael Larson, James Rankin, Tony Tollefson, Jen Tucker and Nina van den Ende were each provided with three minutes during which they told the City Commission why they felt they would make a good choice as the next City Commissioner.

Following these comments, the Commission voted on the motion to use a paper balloting process, which carried unanimously.

Commissioners then utilized paper ballots to indicate their top choice among all applicants. On the first vote, Michael Larson received a majority of the votes cast.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the appointment of Michael Larson to the vacancy created by Evan Bonsall's resignation, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office to incoming Commissioner Larson, who joined the rest of the City Commission.

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Dar Shepherd shared comments about water fluoridation and asked that the City reconsider the practice.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley congratulated Commissioner Larson on his appointment and said it was a very tough decision tough. She encouraged all of the applicants to consider running for a seat on the Commission this year.

Commissioner Ottaway also offered his congratulations and said this appointment process is very smooth and streamlined. He said it saves the city the cost of holding a whole special election in cases of a vacancy, and it has also produced very strong fields of candidates.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she appreciated everyone applying and urged them to stay involved with the City. She also congratulated Commissioner Larson.

Commissioner Smith echoed the congratulations and thanked everyone that was willing to stand up and apply for the seat.

Commissioner Stonehouse congratulated Michael Larson, and said this job is a real challenge. He thanked Larson for stepping up, and thanked everyone for applying and making it a very tough decision.

Commissioner Larson thanked the City Commission for the vote of confidence tonight and he said that when he saw the full list of applicants, he knew it would be a challenge. He said he was looking forward to serving.

Mayor Mayer also offered his congratulations to the newest commissioner. He thanked the applicants and encouraged them to stay involved. He said that a special election was a very difficult prospect to consider, and said the Commission's appointment process was effective.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs congratulated Commissioner Larson on his appointment but had no other comments.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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