



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Agenda City Commission

WORK SESSION

Monday, January 31, 2022

4:30 PM

Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

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

Margaret Brumm said that she was hoping to see a clear explanation of TIF financing during this work session, as it is a complicated topic. She also wondered if this meeting would be recorded by the City.

1. Downtown Development Authority Third Street TIF Discussion

Mayor Smith said tonight's work session would not be recorded, and asked City Manager Karen Kovacs to speak briefly to Margaret Brumm's question. Ms. Kovacs explained that work sessions are intended to be somewhat informal affairs and added that there could be a large number of work sessions in the near future and this could lead to staffing issues if they are going to be recorded.

Marquette Downtown Development Executive Director Becky Salmon and DDA board chair Jerney Ottaway offered a brief explanation of tax-increment financing, as well as the history of the DDA's TIF. They offered an overview of DDA operations and funding, stating that the majority of DDA revenues are generated by the district's TIF. However, the TIF District doesn't currently include Third Street properties.

They explained the DDA's Third Street initiatives, which include grant-funding activities, events and promotions, maintenance services (snow removal, trash, landscaping, flags and banners) and business support. They said that Third Street-related maintenance activities have increased from about 5 percent of the DDA's total in 2011, to around 50 percent now.

DDA Consultant Rob Bacigalupi discussed a prospective timeline for adding Third Street into the TIF District and shared information about a Citizen's Council that could both provide and gather information.

Commissioner Jenn Hill said transportation is key in the DDA and Third Street, and talked about bicycle rentals and electric vehicles, as well as revenues and services.

Discussion ensued about striking a balance between the DDA's need for a TIF district expansion and the need to be cautious with the City general fund.

Mayor Smith noted the myriad benefits of the DDA and said she appreciated tonight's discussion. That said, she said timing will make this a tough conversation moving forward, based on the City's budget issues.

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Margaret Brumm talked about the importance of keeping a full picture of the City budget in mind when making decisions like the one being discussed tonight.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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