



## City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

### Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, February 8, 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.

All members attended via videoconferencing. Six were physically located in the City of Marquette, while Commissioner Mayer was exempted under the Michigan Open Meetings Act from disclosing his location.

#### Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

#### Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements for tonight's meeting.

#### Boards and Committees

##### 1. Appointments

**Steven Schmunk, PWPL Board of Trustees, unexpired term ending 5-01-23**  
**Cesar Escobar, PI Park Advisory Committee, unexpired term ending 4-01-23**  
**Robert Caron, Downtown Development Authority, term expiring 1-01-24**

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Authorize the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

##### 2. Reappointments

**Aaron Andres, Planning Commission, term expiring 2-15-24**  
**Michael Larson, Planning Commission, term expiring 2-15-24**  
**Ellen Weingarten, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, term expiring 1-29-24**  
**Alex Tiseo, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, term expiring 1-29-24**  
**James Susorney, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, term expiring 1-29-24**

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Authorize the reappointments as listed, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

**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.

The following citizens submitted written comments:

Margaret Brumm noted that several of tonight's items include requests for unbudgeted items and asked what impacts these expenses may have on the City's budget moving forward.

Jude Catallo wrote in to ask the Commission to adopt a resolution opposing the vertical launch spaceport being planned near Granot Loma in northern Marquette County.

Judi Cornfoot wrote, opposing the concept of eliminating or changing the City's overnight winter parking ban. She noted that the City has higher housing prices than neighboring areas for several reasons, including the presence of the hospital and the university.

Dennis Ferraro, president of Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior, wrote in to oppose the vertical launch site.

Keith Glendon wrote with his opinions on the report from the Ad Hoc Housing Committee, warning that density should not be the only solution and noting that he would like to see creative solutions proposed.

Patricia Vacilek wrote to request the City clarify to the Governor that the Commission does not support the vertical launch site.

James Roach, from Montana, wrote in opposing the launch site proposed near Granot Loma.

**Presentation(s)**

**3. Marquette Housing Commission, by Jackie Stark**

Jackie Stark, representing the Marquette Housing Commission, presented that board's annual update. Stark and MHC director Sharon Maki provided an update on the MHC activities and future plans.

Commissioners asked about the RAD conversion and the new funding system, planned maintenance for building improvements, makeup of the population served by the MHC and broader community housing goals.

**Public Hearing(s)**

**4. Rezoning of Five Improperly Zoned Properties - Roll Call Vote**

There was one written comment for the public hearing, submitted by Margaret Brumm. Ms. Brumm asked for an explanation as to how this zoning mistake occurred, and whether the City has reviewed other properties to ensure other mis- zonings haven't been overlooked.

Commissioner Bonsall said this issue stems from a simple mistake made during a very large and complicated process. It was expected, he said, that the City would need to make efforts to make minor corrections, such as this one, to the Land Development Code.

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the rezoning of 908 Center Street, 1700 Tracy Avenue, 1705 Schaffer Avenue, 1706 Schaffer Avenue, and 1829 Van Evera Avenue as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**5. Consent Agenda**

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

**5.a. Approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 regular Commission meeting.**

**5.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,385,625.96**

**5.c. Novatime Software Solution**

## **5.d. UPSET Lease Agreement**

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **6. RFP 21-01: City Manager Search Consultant Award**

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve the selection of Walsh Municipal Services, LLC of Okemos, Mich. as the City Manager Search Consultant, authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Professional Services Contract and approve the corresponding budget adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

Frank Walsh was present at the meeting. Following the vote, he said he will spend time working with Commissioners and City staff to create a community profile. After that, he will begin efforts to solicit candidates for the job, before returning to the Commission.

#### **7. Michigan Coastal Management Grant Agreement**

Mayor Pro Tem Hill asked about the plans for the property, and how this grant relates to the work plans recently shared by Baird Engineering. City Manager Angeli said the grant was applied for a while back and the City just recently received notice of the approval. He said the City will work with Baird to make sure the plans tie together.

City Manager Angeli said staff would be updating the Commission throughout this process.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the Michigan Coastal Management Grant Agreement and a budget adjustment of \$167,469 in matching funds, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **8. Firefighters' Labor Agreement**

Commissioner Cody Mayer moved to Approve the new three-year contract with the Marquette Firefighters Association, authorize the City Clerk and the Mayor to sign the Agreement and approve the corresponding budget adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

#### **9. Fire Department Wage Correction**

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the payment of back wages to the firefighters in an amount of \$11,974.36 from the period of Oct. 28, 2018 until current and approve the corresponding budget adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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

Dennis Ferraro called in to the meeting, expressing his displeasure about the proposed vertical launch site. He spoke of the importance of the natural beauty of the area and said he was available for questions if anyone has them.

Anthony Boyle also called in, and voiced concerns over local housing issues, highlighting the cost of housing in Marquette. He said he appreciates the work of the ad-hoc housing commission, and said it's impossible to find a way to solve the housing issue through market forces, because the issues were caused by the market.

Margaret Brumm wrote, asking if Commissioners are planning to request snow plow ride-alongs.

### **Comments from the Commission**

**Commissioner Hanley** said that, in response to the comment from Margaret Brumm, she had spoken to a plow driver to discuss the impacts of potentially altering the overnight parking ban. She said this was a good conversation, and that it's important to note that these are only preliminary discussions, and there is no plan to remove the parking ban.

She did note that she had these chats in lieu of a ride-along in part because she thinks joining a City plow driver in the cab of the truck would be contrary to the State's current health and safety guidance.

**Mayor Pro Tem Hill** discussed agreed on the concept of riding in a plow truck, and spoke on the current state of the COVID-19 response. She also discussed recent work to demolish the Presque Isle Power Plant, and said Michigan's EGLE had become involved, due to the excessive dust and debris related to the demolitions work.

**Commissioner Mayer** agreed with plow comments, and noted that he had received the COVID-19 vaccine. He urged everyone to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

**Commissioner Stonehouse** spoke on the vaccine, and said he would hope that to not see a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Housing Committee related to the winter parking ban.

Commissioner Bonsall said he would hope to receive updates on the power plant demolition, as he has heard concerns from the community. Turning to the parking issue, he then read verbatim from the report of findings distributed by the Ad Hoc Housing Committee, which stated the committee would support a re-evaluation of the parking ban and may support limited on-street parking. Bonsall noted that any move to change anything would require extensive consultation with City staff and the support of the City Commission. He said the contact information for all Commissioners is online and that he would support as much public discussion on these topics as possible.

**Commissioner Davis** welcomed Frank Walsh and said that the task of hiring a new city manager is the most important thing this Commission will undertake. She said that during discussions of housing and parking, it's important to make sure the solutions are specific to Marquette. She said this is an important issue, and asked people to continue sharing their opinions.

**Mayor Smith** said all Ad Hoc Housing Committee recommendations are simply initial recommendations. Once the report is finalized, it is still just a collection of recommendations that will be individually evaluated and any changes will be implemented on a case-by-case basis - this is a slow process and will take some time. She also stated that she was not going to be asking to ride in a plow truck at this time, because the Commission was not currently considering changing the winter parking ban and because health and safety guidelines make it irresponsible to sit unnecessarily for an extended period of time in an enclosed space with other people.

## **Comments from the City Manager**

City Manager Angeli had no comments.

## **Adjournment**

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

---

**Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor**

---

**Kyle Whitney, City Clerk**

***If you require assistance to participate in any meeting, program or activity offered by the City of Marquette, please provide advanced notice to City of Marquette ADA Coordinator Eric Stemen at 906-225-8978 or via email at [estemen@marquettemi.gov](mailto:estemen@marquettemi.gov).***