



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, March 14, 2022
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment

Nathan Frischkorn, Planning Commission appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals, for a term ending 02-15-23

Michelle Metz, Housing Commission, for a term expiring 06-14-26

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner 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.

Mary Tavernini-Dowling thanked the Commission for considering an application for KBIC funding for the Hospitality House of the U.P. She provided updates about the Beacon House.

John Frick commented on the recent memorandum of understanding with NMU and spoke about the need to avoid conflicts of interest, as well as the appearance of conflicts.

Zack Sedgwick, Marquette Area Public Schools Superintendent, spoke about MAPS' partnerships with local governments, and shared information about the district's upcoming May 3 ballot initiative. At that time, voters will be asked whether they want to renew the district's current sinking fund millage.

Presentation(s)

2. Guardian of the Quarter, Marlee Heslip

Jim Edwards from the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum spoke about the current operations of the museum, and highlighted the organization's work to maintain a sense of normalcy during the Covid-19 pandemic. He and Mayor Smith then presented Marlee Heslip with the Guardian of the Quarter Award and Marlee spoke about the museum's importance to her and other local children.

3. Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, by Chair Brad Johnson

Utilities Director Mark O'Neill and Chair Brad Johnson offered the annual presentation of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, discussing the activities of both the board and the facility. Follow-up commission discussion focused on solids storage, wastewater treatment, and the ability to track PFAS and microsolids.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Commission work session

4.b. Approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 regular Commission meeting

4.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,130,352.37

4.d. Bridge Loading Analysis

4.e. Construction Materials Testing Services for 2022 City Construction Projects

4.f. Hypochlorite Generator Cell Replacement

4.g. KBIC Funding for the Community Foundation of Marquette County

4.h. KBIC Funding for the Hospitality House of the Upper Peninsula, Inc.

4.i. Peninsula Fiber Network Agreement

4.j. Request for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 122 N. Third Street

4.k. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the Community Foundation of Marquette County

4.l. Schedule Public Hearings for Fire and Life Safety Ordinances

4.m. Schedule Public Hearings for Recreation Grants

New Business

5. City Commission Sub Committee

Commissioner Jenn Hill moved to Authorize the Mayor to appoint three City Commissioners to the hospital redevelopment sub-committee, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

Following the vote, Mayor Smith stated that she would be appointing herself, Mayor Pro Tem Mayer and Commissioner Davis to the subcommittee.

6. Kids Cove Playground Update and Budget Amendment

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the budget amendment for Kids Cove Inclusive Playground and amend the budget to reflect \$1,500,000 in expenditures and \$1,500,000 in revenues, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall.

Then Commissioner Jess Hanley moved to suspend the rules for discussion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer, and carried unanimously.

Community Services Director Jon Swenson then provided the Commission with an update on the history of this project. He was joined by members of the Marquette Playgrounds For All group, who offered information about plans, schedules, financing and fundraising for the Kids Cove Inclusive Playground.

Following brief discussion, the commission took action on the main motion, to approve the budget amendment, which carried unanimously.

7. MiNextCities

Commissioner Jess Hanley moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with NextEnergy Center, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners stressed the importance of communication on a project like this, but expressed a hope that this could be very beneficial for the City.

The commission then voted on the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Margaret Brumm thanked the City Police Department ad Chief Blake Rieboldt for being responsive to recent concerns she voiced about parking lot safety. She also noted that the salamander migration on the island will begin shortly.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley thanked the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum and Jim Edwards for tonight's Guardian of the Quarter presentation and said she was excited for the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Children's Museum. She also said she was looking forward to the beginning of the playground project.

Commissioner Hill reminded the public that tomorrow night, the City Commission and

Planning Commission will hold a joint work session to discuss possible Land Development Code amendments, as well as future planning projects, including the City Master Plan. She congratulated the Kids Cove Playground group, in addition to the Children's Museum.

Commissioner Stonehouse said there was a lot of good work done tonight and he noted that spring may finally be arriving.

Commissioner Bonsall congratulated Marlee Heslip on her recognition as the Guardian of the Quarter, and acknowledged the museum on its success over the last 25 years and on its positive influence on the future leaders of our community.

Commissioner Davis congratulated Marlee and the museum, and thanked Mary Tavernini-Dowling for the update on the Beacon House.

Mayor Smith also highlighted tomorrow's work session, which will be held in the Municipal Service Center.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said Mary Tavernini-Dowling is a great member of the community, and she said that Marquette is a great and exciting place to be right now.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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