



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, March 27, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Reappointment(s)

Tara Gluski, Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee for a term ending 04-01-26

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the reappointment of Tara Gluski to the Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee for a term ending 4-1-26, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Valerie Olson and Dar Shepherd spoke on the use of fluoride in city water.

Daniel Labar brought attention to the former WE Powerplant land; he suggested it be turned into a green space or an educational opportunity for the university for environmental rehabilitation.

Doug Garrow, Marquette Senior High School hockey coach, requested the ice at Lakeview Arena be put back in at the beginning of June. This would allow more opportunity for youth during the summer to develop their skills.

Margaret Brumm thanked the City Police Department for visiting her college classroom and speaking to her students about student and staff safety at NMU.

Jennifer Ray showed support of the DDA and the proposed Social District and the Wednesday night Farmers Market location designation.

Matt Luttenberger asked for clarification on the differences in property taxes between a home and a rental and at what point a rental property becomes commercial property.

Presentation(s)

2. Recognition of Northern Michigan University Japan Scholarship Student Masao Hayashi, by Paulette Lindberg and Mayor Mayer

Paulette Lindberg honored Northern Michigan University Japan Scholarship student, Masao Hayashi and Mayor Mayer presented him with a certificate as an honorary City of Marquette citizen.

3. Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee, by Chair Tara Gluski

Tara Gluski, Chair of the Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee (PIPAC) presented to the Commission on PIPAC's purpose, goals and the committee's main accomplishments. She also looked ahead to the coming year's goals which includes, working with local partners on Leave No Trace ethics, protection of the park including deer management and protection of the blue spotted salamander during their migration.

Following the presentation, the Commission offered comments and questions.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,016,290.36

4.c. Farmers Market Designation - Roll Call Vote

4.d. Marquette Beautification and Restoration Committee, Inc. Petunia Pandemonium Project

4.e. National Opioids Settlement

4.f. Schedule Public Hearing - Land Development Code Amendments

4.g. Superior Hockey, LLC - Office and Storage Space Lease Agreement

Unfinished Business

5. Ordinance 721 - Black Rock Crossing Tax Exemption- Roll Call Vote

The City Manager provided visuals of the proposed project and subject property. She gave a high-level overview of payment in lieu of taxes. The Mayor granted Craig Patterson, representative of the development, with privileged comment and Mr. Patterson provided additional background on the project.

Following privileged comment Mayor Pro Tem Davis moved to adopt Ordinance 721- Black Rock Crossing Tax Exemption, seconded by Commissioner Larson.

Discussion ensued, focused largely on the local need for affordable housing.

Following discussion, the Commission took a vote on the motion, which Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

New Business

6. Downtown Marquette Social District - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Stonehouse moved to Approve the attached resolutions establishing the Downtown Marquette Social District and recommending MLCC approval of applications for the MLCC Social District Permit, seconded by Commissioner Ottaway.

Commissioner Stonehouse stated this is an opportunity for Marquette to step forward and try something new, in the way of having a vibrant city and downtown.

Commissioner Ottaway voiced excitement for the Downtown Marquette Social District, stating it promotes our downtown and downtown businesses. He also said it provides additional opportunities to bring people together and support our local economy.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis indicated apprehensive support. She highlighted a number of concerns including the amount of staff and monitoring it will take, along with single use plastic containers and asked what metrics will be used to evaluate the Social District.

Following Commissioners' comments, Tara Laase-McKinney, DDA Executive Director was given privileged comment to address concerns and provide additional information about the Social District.

The Commission took a vote on the motion following discussion. The motion Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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Margaret Brumm brought attention to the new piers and the viewing window. She

encouraged the City to install underwater lights for better viewing. She also spoke to the public comments regarding fluoridated water suggesting they be directed to the Marquette County Health Department.

Matt Luttenberger stated he is an advocate for noncompetitive recreation and wishes to see Lakeview Arena more available to the public without the required rental fees.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Stonehouse acknowledged the productive meeting.

Commissioner Larson congratulated the DDA for their two new ventures, the location of the Wednesday night Farmers Market on Washington Street and the Downtown Marquette Social District. He also highlighted the Black Rock Crossing development.

Commissioner Ottaway commented on the City's roads. He stated as the snow melts and spring arrives it unveils new potholes and he recognizes resident concerns about road conditions. He also mentioned the opportunities the Social District and Farmers Market will provide to downtown businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked the City Manager to address the cost of elections. She also brought attention to March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Mayor Mayer showed excitement for the DDA on their two new projects and also thanked Margaret Brumm for initiating underwater solar lights for the pier's viewing window. He also requested the City Manager address three questions.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs wished IT employee Taylor Hedmark a happy birthday and acknowledged his efforts to ensure Commission meetings run smoothly. She then addressed the questions brought forth by the Commission and public comment.

Ms. Kovacs explained the cost to conduct elections is about \$20,000 per election, however some elections may be reimbursed by the State or the local school district.

She clarified residential real property is considered to be four units or less, anything more is classified as commercial and explained the difference in those tax millages based on the Principal Residence Exemption.

Lastly, she spoke on the uniqueness of Lakeview Arena ice. She explained the risk of installing the ice before the ground thaws.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Rachel Quayle, Deputy City Clerk

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