



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, March 31, 2025
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Davis, Gottlieb, Hanley, Larson, Mayer, Ottaway, Schloegel

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Perry David Allen II, Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for an unexpired term ending 2-1-27

Perry David Allen II, Election Board, for a term ending 4-11-2029

Dallas Fetter, to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Planning Commission representative, for a term ending 2-15-2026

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the appointment of Perry David Allen II, Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for an unexpired term ending 2-1-27; Perry David Allen II, Election Board, for a term ending 4-11-29; Dallas Fetter, Board of Zoning Appeals as the Planning Commission representative, for a term ending 2-15-26, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

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

Representatives from Room at the Inn expressed concern about Ordinance 25-02 regarding overnight occupation on public property.

Presentation(s)

2. Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority Update, by Trail Administrator Bob Hendrickson

Iron Ore Heritage Trail Administrator Bob Hendrickson provided a brief history and an update on the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority. He highlighted a variety of projects the authority has been involved in such as the Cultural Trail and the Carp River Kiln. It was noted that the Authority will soon address amending their Articles of Incorporation to reflect the current legislative bodies involved and expand on the eligibility of its members.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Able Medical Devices Industrial Development District - Roll Call Vote

Prior to opening the public hearing City Manager Karen Kovacs provided clarification on the purpose of PA 198 of 1974 and the process of establishing an Industrial Development District.

The Mayor opened the public hearing, during which various people shared their perspectives on the establishment of the Industrial Development District. A representative from Lake Superior Community Partnership voiced support for the proposal, while the Executive Director of NTN discussed its potential impact on the trail system. The CEO of Longyear provided background on Able Medical, detailing the history and key aspects of the development agreement. Additionally, he clarified the specific amount of property being proposed for designation as an Industrial Development District.

Following the public hearing a motion was made by Commission Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner Davis to postpone to the April 28 meeting any action on the establishment of an Industrial Development District to allow the City manager to work with the property owner to craft language that would guarantee the integrity of the trails that currently exist on the owner's contiguous property. Discussion ensued with privilege comment given to the respective representatives from Able Medical and NTN board. Following discussion, the Commission voted on the motion. The motion failed 1-6 with Commissioner Gottlieb voting yes.

A second motion was made by Commissioner Mayer, to approve the resolution to establish an Industrial Development District and authorize the City Clerk to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ottaway and Carried by Roll Call Vote.

4. Recreation Master Plan - Roll Call Vote

Before opening the public hearing, Community Services Director Jon Swenson provided an overview of the process behind developing the Recreation Master Plan. He highlighted future projects and community needs that were identified within the plan.

After the presentation, the public hearing commenced, but no comments were received from the public.

Commissioner Ottaway moved to adopt the Resolution to approve the Five-Year Recreation Master Plan as publicly presented and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioners commended staff on their efforts developing the plan. Following a brief discussion, the Commission voted on the motion 7-0 by Roll Call Vote.

5. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried by Roll Call Vote .

5.a. Approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 regular Commission meeting

5.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,532,070.74

5.c. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - Special Event Permit

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

5.e. MQT Bike Rentals Lease Agreement

5.f. MQTS, INC. Roller Derby Storage Space Lease Agreement

5.g. Ordinance 25-02: Overnight Occupation of Public Property

5.h. Resolution to Approve the Addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an Approved Investment Option - Roll Call Vote

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

Virginia Killough shared her personal story, highlighting the impact that federal social safety net programs like Medicaid and Social Security have on her son's well-being. She spoke about the impending cuts to these programs, voicing her fears about the uncertain future that many families may face.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Larson recognized the importance of sharing personal stories and expressed appreciation to the community for the time given to public input for things such as the Recreation Master Plan and recent public hearings. He also thanked staff for keeping the city moving in light of the recent snowstorm.

Commissioner Schloegel echoed Commissioner Larson sentiment regarding sharing personal stories and empathized with Ms. Killough and others in similar situations. He also acknowledged everyone's cleanup efforts after the recent snow fall.

Commissioner Mayer shared his personal testimony empathizing with Ms. Killough.

Commissioner Ottaway emphasized the importance of making your voice heard, highlighting public comment periods as an avenue for individuals to express their opinions and concerns. He thanked the police department for their response to a recent event taking place at the Medical Center.

Commissioner Davis thanked the public for bringing light to vulnerable populations. She showed appreciation toward City staff for their snow removal efforts.

Commissioner Gottlieb echoed the previous Commissioners' comments.

Mayor Hanley thanked the public for coming to the meeting and sharing their stories and concerns.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs provided information for resources for those with concerns over federal changes and offered support in connecting the public with those resources. She reminded the public of her upcoming community office hours. Lastly, touched on the recent snow fall and provided insight about the public works department stating they are responsible for maintaining nearly 90 miles of road and 19 miles of sidewalks and multiple public parking lots.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Rachel Quayle, Deputy 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.