



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, April 12, 2021
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Commissioners Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Mayer and Stonehouse.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Hill made a motion to move tonight's closed session to the end of the agenda, following public comment. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Mayer and carried unanimously. Commissioner Bonsall then moved to approve the agenda with the inclusion of a New Business item titled Discussion of Heartwood Parcels 9-11 Sale. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanley and passed 6-1, with Commissioner Stonehouse voting no.

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.

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 only written comment came from Margaret Brumm, who wrote asking about future plans for the property at 702 Lakeshore Boulevard.

Presentation(s)

1. Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority Recycling Update, by Brad Austin, Director of Operations

MCSWMA Director Brad Austin gave an update on countywide recycling efforts, and the commission discussed ways to increase active participation in the authority's glass recycling efforts.

2. Wastewater Solids Handling Improvement Project, by Municipal Utilities Director Mark O'Neill

Mark O'Neill offered an update on the plans to improve the City's solids handling infrastructure.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- 3.a. Approve the minutes of the March 29, 2021 regular Commission meeting.**
- 3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$262,050.63**
- 3.c. Amended Local Development Agreement Parcel 12 of Former Heartwood Property**
- 3.d. Sale of Surplus Equipment**
- 3.e. Schedule a Public Hearing for Rezoning Vacant Land**
- 3.f. Seamless HRA Plan Document**

New Business

4. Kids Cove Inclusive Playground - Professional Services Contract Award

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve Sanders & Czapski Associates' proposal for design and construction oversight of the Kids Cove Inclusive Playground project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$77,000, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

5. Purchase of Property, 702 Lakeshore Boulevard - Roll Call Vote

Commissioners praised the concept of purchasing the property in question, and discussed the importance of ensuring public ownership of the lakeshore.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Authorize the City Manager to negotiate the purchase of 702 Lakeshore Boulevard, and direct the City Attorney to draft a purchase agreement, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

6. West Washington Street 100 Block Streetscape Project and Sidewalk Repair and Replacements Project

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve a contract for the package construction project of West Washington Street 100 Block Streetscape and Sidewalk Replacement and Repair projects to Arrow Constructions, Inc. in the amount of \$614,546.75, allow the City Manager to use a 10-percent contingency for any unknown circumstances, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Contract, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

7. Discussion of Heartwood Parcels 9-11 Sale

Commissioner Bonsall provided an overview of the history of the City's negotiation and sale of Heartwood Forestland Parcels 9-11. The Commission approved a purchase agreement in September of 2020. At that time, a Local Development Agreement was included as an exhibit of the purchase agreement, and Commissioner Bonsall expressed surprise that the development agreement had been executed, but had never returned to the City Commission for final approval.

City Manager Angeli explained that the plan had been for that agreement to return for final approval, but that in the midst of the remote work challenges and the several recent property sales, it had been overlooked.

In discussion with the Commission, City Attorney Suzanne Larsen indicated that in her opinion, the document had received a legal approval from the Commission and that the City could not change anything unilaterally. Commissioners indicated a desire to increase communication to prevent a similar issue from occurring in the future.

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Margaret Brumm wrote in asking for the Strategic Plan to be uploaded to the City website prior to the upcoming work sessions on the topic.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Davis had no comments.

Commissioner Hanley said she was thankful for the discussion on the local development agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill invited the public to pay attention to the hiring process for the new City Manager, and asked residents to focus on the glass recycling process to make it work. She said that she wanted to ensure that there was good communication and that the City was working to support the local trail networks.

Commissioner Mayer thanked Commissioner Bonsall for mentioning his concerns related to the recent local development agreement and thanked the City Manager for clearly stating what happened with the issue, and said he is very pleased to be back for in-person meetings.

Commissioner Stonehouse said the local development agreement was not handled as well as it could have been, but that it is a good agreement and the internal issue does not represent a major issue.

Commissioner Bonsall said he received the Covid-19 vaccine recently and he urged residents to schedule a time to get their own vaccine. He said that the mentioned local development agreement was not acceptable to him and that he may not have voted in favor of the original purchase agreement if he knew that the local development agreement would not be brought back for an additional individual approval.

Mayor Smith urged residents to get a vaccine. She said that vaccines may get us back to a somewhat normal situation. She read the schedule for leaf, compost and brush pickup.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Angeli thanked the Commission for support. He also stated that, in response to Margaret Brumm's written question, the strategic plan is available on the website and the direct link has been provided to her.

Closed Session

- 8. CLOSED SESSION (If Needed): To review confidential applications for the City Manager position. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(f) "To review and consider the contents of an application for employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential."**

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Authorize moving into a closed session, pursuant to MCL 15.268(f), seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

The City Commission entered closed session at 7:53 p.m. The City Commission re-entered open session at 9:02 p.m.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to invite for public interviews City Commission candidates numbered 9, 26, 31, 33, 38 and 39, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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