



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, May 10, 2021
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Agenda, with the removal of Item #6, regarding the Founder Landing piling project, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Reappointments

Heather Dombrowski, BZA, for a term expiring 2-15-24

Ron Sundell, PIPAC, for a term expiring 4-1-24

Orville Dishno, PIPAC, for a term expiring 4-1-24

Tracy Wascom, PAC, for a term expiring 2-26-24

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the re-appointments as listed, 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.

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.

Margaret Brumm wrote in, asking about which commissioners speak for the City Commission and commenting on the next steps in the City Manager hiring process.

Deb Cook, Joe Havican, Brett Girard, Jim O'Donnell and Joe Downs signed off on a group letter from the Marquette Tennis Association, supporting the project at Williams Park.

Paul Schloegel wrote with concerns about recent service from Waste Management and he urged the City Commission to strongly consider other haulers when the current contract expires.

Utilizing videoconferencing, Mary Tavernini called in to ask the Commission to support the Beacon House project by approving the proposed brownfield plan amendment.

Presentation(s)

2. Senior Center Update, by Senior Services Manager Maureen McFadden

City Senior Services Manager Maureen McFadden offered an update on the activities of the Senior Center. The Senior Center work has been made much more difficult by Covid, she said, but staff is making the best of it. Ms. McFadden highlighted the center's arts programs, the Silver Sampler and the many vital social work programs.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Public Hearing for Rezoning Vacant Land - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the rezoning of vacant land adjacent to 505 Lakeshore Boulevard as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4. Consent Agenda

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

- 4.a. Approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 special Commission meeting.**
- 4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$288,903.18**
- 4.c. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 1000 Spruce Street**
- 4.d. Deed for Property Adjacent to Railroad Right-of-Way**
- 4.e. Front-Load Cuda Parts Washer Purchase**
- 4.f. Hewitt Avenue, Pine Street, Front Street and College Avenue Reconstruction Projects**
- 4.g. License for Use of City Property in the Crescent Street Right-of-Way**
- 4.h. Michael Sjolund - Lease Agreement**
- 4.i. Proclamation - Public Works Recognition Week**
- 4.j. Schedule Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Conditional Rezoning of 616 Fisher Street**
- 4.k. Schedule Public Hearing-Single Lot Special Assessment Roll #588**
- 4.l. SpinwayMQT, LLC – Lease Agreement**
- 4.m. UP Community Rowing Club - Storage Lease**
- 4.n. Water and Wastewater Computer Hardware Upgrade**
- 4.o. Water and Wastewater Computer System Upgrade**

Unfinished Business

5. City Manager Search Discussion

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Authorize making an offer of employment for the Marquette City Manager

position to Karen Kovacs, and authorize the Mayor to appoint three City Commissioners to work with staff to negotiate a mutually- acceptable contract for employment with the candidate for consideration at the May 24 City Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously. Commissioners voiced support for Ms. Kovacs and praised the strong field of applicants that the City Commission had to choose from.

Via videoconferencing, Ms. Kovacs then shared comments, thanking the City Commission for the opportunity and saying that she was looking forward to becoming a part of the Marquette community.

6. Founders Pile Reuse - Construction Contract

This item was removed from tonight's agenda.

7. Williams Park Athletic Courts and ADA Access - Construction Contract

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve the contract with Ultra Construction for construction of the Williams Athletic Court Renovations and ADA Access project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$249,659.18, amend the budget to include the additional \$107,659.18, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the contract, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

New Business

8. Schedule a Public Hearing for the Duke LifePoint Marquette General Replacement Hospital Brownfield Plan Amendment- Roll Call Vote

Due to a technical issue during the earlier public comment period, the Mayor allowed public comment from Steve Mariucci, who called in via videoconferencing. Mr. Mariucci asked the Commission for support for this item, which would support the aims of the Beacon House.

The commission voiced general concerns over this proposed amendment and briefly discussed the trade-offs that could be made by deciding to move forward with the proposed amendment. Commissioner Stonehouse questioned whether it was wise to use a brownfield plan to redirect taxpayer funds to a private nonprofit. Still, Commissioners largely supported the idea of approving this item tonight, as it simply schedules a public hearing on the topic, and several said they were hoping to hear from the public on this item.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve scheduling a public hearing for the Duke LifePoint Marquette General Replacement Hospital brownfield plan amendment for the May 24, 2021 City Commission meeting, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the resolution establishing the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried by Roll Call Vote .

This motion carried 6-1, with Commissioner Fred Stonehouse voting against it.

9. Notice of Intent Resolution-FY 21 CWSRF Bonds - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve a Notice of Intent Resolution to start the process of issuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund Bonds for a not-to- exceed amount of \$8,500,000 for the Solids Handling Improvement project, and authorize the City Clerk to sign the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

10. Queen City Courts - Hurley Park Mural - Artist Selection

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the contract with Joey Salamon and Ivan Montoya for the Queen City Courts Mural located at Hurley Park in the amount of \$15,000, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

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

There were no public comments at this point.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley urged residents to get vaccinated if they have not already, and told people that if they have questions or concerns about the vaccines, they should talk to their doctor about it.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill praised the incredible hard work of the medical community in the last year and said it seems like there is a light at the end of the tunnel right now. She noted that today is Small Business Day, and she said this ties in to the vaccine conversation. By getting vaccinated, we can more easily support our small businesses, which are the lifeblood of the community.

Commissioner Mayer had no comments.

Commissioner Stonehouse congratulated Karen Kovacs on being offered the job of City Manager and he said tonight was a productive meeting.

Commissioner Bonsall also congratulated Ms. Kovacs and said he is confident that the Commission made the right choice. He also thanked City Manager Angeli for all his hard work over the years. Commissioner Bonsall also noted Small Business Day, and said that getting vaccinated is the best way to support our small local businesses right now. Finally, he said that public input sessions are beginning shortly for the Kids Cove Playground project.

Commissioner Davis said she thinks the Commission supports the Beacon House, but that the concern expressed tonight stems from subpar communication and from a need to act as good stewards of public funds. She also thanked Frank Walsh for his work as consultant in the City Manager search, and she congratulated Karen Kovacs on her selection as the next Marquette City Manager.

Mayor Smith also thanked Mr. Walsh and again congratulated Karen Kovacs. The mayor appointed Commissioners Stonehouse, Davis and Mayer to the City Manager contract negotiation subcommittee. She mentioned tonight's work session on the Savings Bank building project, which is available for viewing on YouTube. She said this project was larger than she anticipated and she wants to be sure the public has seen the plan now, when the project is still in its early stages. Finally, the mayor noted that it is Public Works Recognition Week and she thanked City Staff for their efforts in that area.

Mayor Smith then asked Karen Kovacs if she would like to say anything. Ms. Kovacs reiterated her appreciation and said she was looking forward to arriving in Marquette.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Angeli said that it looks as though there may be a brief window of time between his last day and Ms. Kovacs first day, and he would suggest that the Commission appoint Sean Hobbins as the Interim City Manager during that time.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:50 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, provide advanced notice to City ADA Coordinator Eric Stemen at 906-225-8978 or by email at estemen@marquettemi.gov.