



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, June 14, 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 and Stonehouse.

Absent: Commissioner Mayer.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Smith noted that both the City Commission and members of the public are in the room tonight for the first time in months. She said the Commission, for the time being, was still receiving written public comment, which will be read during the meeting.

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

Margaret Brumm spoke in person, stating that it felt good to be back in chambers. She noted that the City Commission has done good work during the last year.

Paul Schloegel wrote in to praise the Commission for the recent decision to accept the lakeshore property donation from WE Energies. He requested the Commission direct staff to investigate the feasibility of using that property as a dog beach or a summer dog park and added that his family would be willing to kickstart a fundraising effort for this project by donating \$1,000.

Presentation(s)

1. Peter White Public Library Board, by Library Director Andrea Ingmire

Peter White Public Library Director Andrea Ingmire shared an update on library operations, funding, programs and offerings, and future plans.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Ingmire and the library staff for their work, especially during the pandemic-related closures. The library, commissioners said, allowed the community to maintain some level of regularity, especially for children, during a rough time.

Public Hearing(s)

2. Public Hearing-Conditional Rezoning of 616 Fisher Street - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing on this item.

Ryan Redmond spoke in person, representing Superior Housing Solutions, and said the group completed a fire inspection today and planned to make the required changes as soon as possible.

As there was no one else waiting to speak, Mayor Smith closed the hearing.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Conditional Rezoning of the subject property at 616 Fisher Street to Mixed-Use with Conditional Rezoning as recommended by the Planning Commission and in compliance with Land Development Code Section 54.1405, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- 3.a. Approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular Commission meeting.**
- 3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$986,521.53**
- 3.c. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to Street**
- 3.d. 2021 Fireworks Display Permit**
- 3.e. International Food Fest - Special Event Permit**
- 3.f. Proclamation - Arbor Day**
- 3.g. Schedule Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Rezoning of 1651 S. Front Street**
- 3.h. Schedule Public Hearing for Planned Unit Development Amendment Request**

New Business

4. Appointment of City Treasurer

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Confirm the City Manager's appointment of Terra Bahrman as City Treasurer, effective July 1, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

5. Resolution Accepting MNRTF Kids Cove Grant Agreement - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the resolution of acceptance for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Agreement, TF20-0199, authorize Mayor and Clerk to sign the resolution, and authorize the City Manager or her designee to sign the Grant Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

6. Short-term Rental Resolution- Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Bonsall called the bills, House Bill 4722 and Senate Bill 446, "uniquely terrible" and said the proposed legislation could bar municipalities from limiting the numbers of short-term rentals and would greatly inhibit the ability of local government to regulate the process at all.

Other commissioners agreed, indicating that the City of Marquette spent several months discussing how to best handle short-term rentals locally, and that the process had been created, adopted and amended with the specific interests of the local community in mind.

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Resolution opposing House Bill 4722 and Senate Bill 446, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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

Margaret Brumm complimented City staff on organizing and presenting hundreds of written public comments during the last Commission meeting. She welcomed new City Manager Karen Kovacs and offered to have a one-on-one conversation to share information about the history of the City. Ms. Brumm also indicated that she is working to curb pollution in the City.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley said the City is lucky to have two groups that have stepped up to organize a parade and a fireworks display for the 4th of July holiday on short notice. Funds are still needed for the fireworks display and to go toward next year's fireworks and she urged people to donate.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill shared information about the upcoming Wednesday Farmer's Market, City Art Week and the Ride for Pride scheduled for later this month.

Commissioner Stonehouse noted that the command is changing at the Coast Guard station at the end of this month and he shared information about that process. He praised the Coast Guard and the history of the life-saving service.

Commissioner Bonsall welcomed new City Manager Karen Kovacs and said he has been impressed. He thanked the City Clerk for reading the written public comments while the City Commission meetings were closed to public attendance during the pandemic. Commissioner Bonsall also praised the civic pride that allowed the community to organize so many summer events on such short notice and asked residents to apply to join some of the City's advisory boards and committees. He also said a sticker will be coming in City utility bills and will detail the glass recycling weeks. Finally, he said the Ad Hoc Housing Committee's work is completed, and the final report is now available online at www.marquettemi.gov.

Commissioner Davis also welcomed new City Manager Kovacs and said she is looking forward to many successes. She mentioned the American Legion display during Flag Day, which is today, and noted that Ms. Kovacs would be planting a new tree tomorrow in honor of Arbor Day. Commissioner Davis also thanked staff for the work at Hurley Park this year.

Mayor Smith said that she thinks Ms. Kovacs' first few days in the job have gone well, and welcomed her to the City. Responding to the public comment about the dog beach idea, she said this was discussed briefly during the strategic planning sessions, and that staff would be looking at options. She thanked Mr. Schloegel and his family for the offer to contribute to a possible fundraising effort. Said the commission will have further conversations. Mayor Smith said she is happy to have everyone back in person and praised the work of staff, volunteers and commissioners during the last 15 months.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the commission and staff for the warm welcome, and said she also appreciates the welcome from the community. She said she has come to the City at a good time and this is a great time to be involved with Marquette.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:07 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.