



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, July 8, 2024
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Davis said the time capsule was opened following the 4th of July parade. She said the items are on display at the History Center, and that the city will be working to create a new time capsule moving forward.

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

Chelsea Wilkinson, representing Room at the Inn, asked the City Commission to consider decriminalizing homelessness.

Brooke Tharp spoke about a need to pursue true solutions to address homelessness in the community.

Cindy Hanson spoke about parking on Lake Street. She shared some history of parking along the street and she said she thinks that allowing parking along the street is a hazard.

Ashlyn Warren, Ian Watson and Alex Guindon spoke about homelessness, reading from a list of proposed policy changes.

Margaret Brumm spoke about the previous weekend's events in lower harbor.

Presentation(s)

1. Police-Fire Pension Board, by Chair Mike Archocosky

Police-Fire Pension Board Chair Mike Archocosky gave an update on the board, highlighting the level at which the accounts are funded. While the goal is 80 percent, the funding is currently at 79 percent and he said he has never seen it funded at such a high level.

Public Hearing(s)

2. Land Development Code Amendments

The Mayor opened the public hearing. With no one looking to speak, the hearing was concluded.

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance #731 in accordance with the recommendation from the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,582,321.30

3.c. MERS Annual Meeting - Officer Delegate Appointment

3.d. Schedule Public Hearing - Rezoning of 446 E. Crescent Street

New Business

4. ITRON Managed Services

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the amendment to the original software agreement with Itron, Inc. for the water AML software to now include Managed Services, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the amendment to the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

5. Naming - Nheena Weyer Ittner Skatepark

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the request to name the skate park "The Nheena Weyer Ittner Skatepark", 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.

Cindy Hanson finished up her prior comment about parking.

Margaret Brumm said she had purchased underwater solar lights for the window in the new piers and she is willing to help organize the installation.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Smith thanked those who spoke about the homeless concerns, and said she would expect staff to review the documents that were provided.

Commissioner Larson thanked staff and the City for a great 4th of July week.

Commissioner Mayer thanked staff and the committees that put the agenda items together. HE praised the police and fire staff for the calm and enjoyable 4th. He thanked those who spoke tonight.

Commissioner Ottaway said the homelessness comments are a good way to start the conversation and said he wants to be proactive on the issue. He spoke about the South Lakeshore parking issues and asked for the police chief to comment on the topic.

Police Chief Ryan Grim said that the parking issue has become more pronounced in the last couple of years. He said the police have started writing warning tickets to those parking in the area, but that citations will be issues if the issues continue.

Mayor Pro Tem Hanley spoke about a need to work toward solutions on the homelessness front and she thanked those who spoke.

Commissioner Schloegel said the majority of the homeless are hard-working people trying to better their lives and he talked about some ways to best work toward a solution. He said he supported the LDC amendments tonight but said there are a couple of items in there that he is not totally supportive of. However, he said the LDC is a living document that can be revisited if needed.

Mayor Davis said the parade and fireworks went well and there were more people than ever. She thanked the Kiwanis, the Exchange Club, the American Legion and the Fireworks Committee.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs announced that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will have a July 17 drop-in open house, as well as a July 18 presentation-centric open house. She said the City has been working with local municipalities to find short- and long-term solutions around homelessness.

Adjournment

Mayor Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Sally Davis, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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