



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, July 10, 2023

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Mayer had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

John Stewart, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for an unexpired term ending 01-29-24

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

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

Margaret Brumm spoke about the off-leash dog training sessions being offered at NMU by the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter. She also spoke about her concerns with recent changes to the walking hours at Presque Isle.

Presentation(s)

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

Mike Archocosky offered an update on the City's Police-Fire Pension Board, which is composed of police and fire representatives, as well as the City Treasurer and two at-large appointees. He talked about the successes of the system, which is in a comfortable position at present. He said the board has struggled to maintain public membership, with the sole public member recently leaving the board due to term limits.

Commissioner Ottaway said the pension offered to City officers and firefighters is a key recruiting tool at a time when it's becoming more and more difficult to recruit.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Public Hearing - Preliminary Planned Unit Development Plan for 480 River Park Circle

Mayor Mayer opened the public hearing.

Margaret Brumm said she has reviewed all of the materials related to this request and can't say whether this should be approved or not. She said it has several beneficial aspects, but that the plan is difficult to understand and it isn't clear to her what the future of the site will definitively look like.

Developer David Ollila introduced himself to the Commission and presented a brief overview of the plan. He said the goal is to establish Shophouse Park as the local nucleus of an innovative, creative and growing outdoor technology and mobility sectors.

With no one else looking to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to approve the Planned Unit Development at 480 River Park Circle. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stonehouse said this project has been discussed for a long time, and that it has passed muster with staff and the City Planning Commission, in addition to receiving state-level support. He said this is a chance to focus on new technologies locally and to perhaps provide employment opportunities in new and emerging fields.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she is grateful that the Planning Commission has a strong and experienced membership that ask the important questions, and a staff that does such thorough work. She said this is innovative and visionary, and that any remaining questions can be worked through.

Commissioner Hanley said the City talks a lot about needing tax base, and this will certainly increase tax base, while building up a part of the city not currently built up. She said she is excited. Commissioner Larson also voiced his support for the project.

The Commission then voted on the motion to approve the PUD, which carried unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

- 4.a. Approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 regular Commission meeting
- 4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,039,895.97
- 4.c. Corrective Public Utility Easement Agreement - Windstone Condominium
- 4.d. MERS Annual Meeting - Officer Delegate Appointment
- 4.e. Outback Art Fair - Special Event Permit
- 4.f. SpinwayMQT Lease Agreement Addendum
- 4.g. Upper Echelon 2023 - Special Event Permit

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David Ollila thanked the City Commission and praised the work put in by the Community Development Department. He said he is looking forward to the future of the Shophouse Park project.

Margaret Brumm spoke about the change to walking hours on the island. She said she missed the announcement for the meeting at which the Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee discussed the hours, and she spoke about the importance of the island.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley said she was out of town but has heard great things about the fireworks and the parade and she thanked everyone who helped to organize the events.

Commissioner Larson said there was a ribbon cutting for the piers, and thanked staff for the work on the project.

Commissioner Ottaway praised the community efforts of the police department over the 4th of July.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said it was nice to see the City Band at the pier ribbon cutting ceremony. She also highlighted recent street improvements in the City.

Commissioner Smith had no comments.

Commissioner Stonehouse said the change in walking hours on the island has caused quite the stir, and he said that is indicative of how much the community loves the island. He said the piers are a long, long time in the making and he's happy to see staff finding a way to finally accomplish the project.

Mayor Mayer asked for some staff clarification regarding the island hours.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said there are staffing challenges related to having people available to always open and close the driving loop at Presque Isle. She said the change that was made extended the walking hours from 6-8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays to 6 p.m. to close on those same days.

She also thanked the City staff that ensured all of the 4th of July festivities went off smoothly.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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