



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission Meeting

Monday, July 12, 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.

Approval of the Agenda

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

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.

Frank Stabile said he has been watching the Vault Marquette proposal with interest and was looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Matthew Luttenberger said he was disappointed with the renderings provided as part of the Vault proposal.

Katherine Payant voiced concern that the Vault Marquette project would impact the views for the public, as well as diners, and that it would draw more people to the area.

James Center said brownfield designations and TIF districts should provide a public good, and he doesn't think the Vault project provides enough.

Margaret Brumm said she was pleased to see a large number of people interested in tonight's meeting and thanked people for attending.

Presentation(s)

1. K9 Nitro-Recognition of Services, by Police Chief Blake Rieboldt and K9 Officer John Waldo

Police Chief Blake Rieboldt and K9 Handler/Officer John Waldo both spoke about K9 Nitro, who passed away recently. They presented a tribute video in honor of Nitro.

2. Swearing in of K9 Zepp, by Police Chief Blake Rieboldt

Rieboldt and Waldo introduced K9 Zepp, and City Clerk Kyle Whitney administered the oath of office to Waldo, on behalf of Zepp.

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

Police-Fire Pension Board Mike Archocosky gave an update on the activities of the board.

Public Hearing(s)

4. Proposed Rezoning of 1651 S. Front Street - Roll Call Vote

Terry Doyle spoke, asking the Commission to approve this rezoning of his property. Carrie Roy said she thinks this rezoning would be bad for the City.

James Center spoke on the history of the zoning for this parcel.

Barbara Wright spoke in opposition to the rezoning and future proposed use for the property.

Pete LaRue spoke in opposition to the rezoning.

Amelia Sramek and Linda Byers-Blaksmith both wrote comments in opposition to the rezoning.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Deny the rezoning request, as recommended by the planning commission, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried by Roll Call Vote .

The motion carried 4-3, with Mayor Pro Tem Hill and Commissioners Hanley and Mayer voting no.

5. Planned Unit Development Major Amendment Request - Roll Call Vote

Representing the applicant, Brian Bloch spoke, discussing the parameters of the existing PUD.

Dan Keller spoke in favor of the amendment request, talking about the specific parcel, as well as the history of the development.

Livio Stabile spoke in support of the amendment and said the proposed fence is low-impact.

Nancy Seminoff spoke in opposition to the request and said she was concerned this could create a precedent.

Julie Bowerman, the applicant, wrote in, requesting approval from the City Commission.

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the PUD Amendment request and correct all references to the applicant's "lot" to properly refer to it as a "unit", seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Failed.

The motion failed 4-3, with Mayor Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Hill, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Stonehouse all voting against it.

No further action was taken on this item.

6. Vault Marquette Brownfield Plan - Roll Call Vote

Barry Polzin, John Mason, Steven Slivensky, Jim Knape, James Center, Jen Julien, Antonio Adan, Margaret Brumm and Jon Julien all spoke during the comment portion of the public hearing.

Written comments were read from Barb Potts, Bobbi Bicigo, Holly Jo Smith, Isabel Francis, Kristi Evans, Kylie Puuri, Liz Kuhn, Lyn Nelson, Marlys Murray, Mike Potts, Mim Dixon, Nate Shuttleworth and Valerie Baciak, Nick Shue, Nicole Lasich, Ray and Sue Hlavaty, Sarah Johnson, Scott Gentry, Susan Bohor, Tom Wahlstrom and Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaunt.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve suspending the rules for discussion, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Commissioners asked several questions of staff and discussed the brownfield proposal, as well as the potential implications of a project of this scope.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the Vault Marquette brownfield plan, with the amendment that near the end of the plan, the TIF payments would skip the MBRA Revolving fund and would revert back to the DDA, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried by Roll Call Vote .

The motion carried 5-2, with Commissioners Bonsall and Davis voting no.

7. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

- 7.a. Approve the minutes of the June 28, 2021 regular Commission meeting**
- 7.b. Approve the minutes of the June 30, 2021 Commission work session**
- 7.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,349,388**
- 7.d. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 3152 Island Beach Road**
- 7.e. Outback Art Fair - Special Event Permit**
- 7.f. Superior Kayaking Company - Lease Agreement**

Unfinished Business

8. Ordinance #695 - Street Performers - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance #695 and approve the resolution establishing operating locations and times for street performers, and direct the Mayor and City Clerk to sign both, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

9. Ordinance #696 - Presque Isle Open Burning Regulation - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance #696, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

New Business

10. MBLP Broadband Resolution- Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Cody Mayer moved to Approve the resolution supporting the Marquette Board of Light and Power's broadband initiative, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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Steven Slivensky spoke about housing affordability and short-term rentals. Nancy Seminoff spoke about the PUD amendment decision and future plans.

Margaret Brumm talked about littering, tonight's commission decisions and the amount of public involvement.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Bonsall thanked everyone who came to tonight's meeting to express their opinion or otherwise take part.

Commissioner Davis thanked the city departments involved with the July 4 parade, which was successful. She also said that despite her no vote tonight, she is looking forward to working with the developers of the Vault project.

Commissioner Hanley said it was amazing to see the amount of public involvement tonight, and she noted that, in addition to the statements opposing the Vault plan, she had also recently heard a lot of public comments in favor of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill spoke about the current state of the short-term rental bills in the Michigan legislature.

Commissioner Mayer thanked the public for their engagement tonight. He said this does not represent the final discussion or vote about the Vault brownfield project, and he said that he has seen the developers working every step of the way to answer public concerns and to meet the Commission in the middle where needed.

Commissioner Stonehouse thanked everyone on hand at tonight's meeting and noted that the brownfield project would be coming back to the Commission at a future date. He voiced concern about the short-term rental bills and urged residents to contact their elected officials at a state level.

Mayor Smith said that tonight's vote represented one of the most difficult decisions she has made on the commission, placing it just below the decision to hire a new city manager and to fill commission vacancies. She said she had received a great deal of contact from the public in advance of the meeting, and said that most people had seemed extremely well-informed.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the City Commission for having a difficult conversation tonight.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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