



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, July 31, 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

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

Announcements

Mayor Mayer had no announcements this evening.

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

Jean Whitman-Shelby spoke about the history of Presque Isle Park. She said she believes that Peter White would not approve of limiting the vehicular traffic on Presque Isle, and recited a list of hiking trails in the area.

Jim Shelby spoke, continuing to read from the same list of trails. He also spoke of his family's personal history driving around Presque Isle.

Cathy Ruprecht said she knows Presque Isle well, but said that the back side of the island, a unique forest canopy, is not accessible if you are unable to walk or drive.

Margaret Brumm spoke about the importance of maintaining vehicular access to the island, and said this is the most important topic she has ever brought to the commission.

Brian Miller talked about why electric vehicles are not a good investment currently. He cited several studies about the operation and impacts of EVs.

Presentation(s)

1. Former Cliffs-Dow Property Transaction Environmental Considerations by Richard Baron, Foley, Baron, Metzger & Juip, PLLC, Special Counsel to City; Tom Anthos and Ryan Whaley, TriMedia Environmental & Engineering

City Manager Karen Kovacs introduced the topic and said this presentation is intended to serve as background information for the City Commission and the community. This will be a type of homework that will precede any major decisions. Richard Baron - of Foley, Baron, Metzger & Juip - introduced Tom Anthos and Ryan Whaley of TriMedia. He said the presentation is aimed to create a better

understanding of how to assess a property, so the City Commission can better understand whether it would be beneficial to accept a given property transaction. The presentation touched on the basics of environmental site assessments, timelines, environmental conditions, due care obligations and remedies. The presenters and the City Commission discussed ongoing liability for contaminated properties, possible negotiation considerations, deed restrictions and the challenge of the timelines previously detailed by the State of Michigan. Mr. Baron said City does not currently have a letter of intent from the state and therefore has nothing to react to. He said if the state sends such a letter, the City's team is poised to respond.

2. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

2.a. Approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 regular Commission meeting

2.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$3,651,454.76

2.c. Letter of Support - Rolling Meadows

2.d. Presque Isle Marina - Construction Services Change Order

2.e. Superior Trade Zone Appointments

2.f. Wright Street Sidewalk Easement

New Business

3. Site Condominium Development Request - "The Bluffs" on Forestville Basin Trail

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the proposed condominium subdivision with the conditions approved by the Planning Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem 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.

Jean Shelby said she retired from the Jacobetti Home for Veterans and said the federal government closely surveys the building every year. She talked about the uses of the existing facility, and discusses the state's plans for a new facility.

Margaret Brumm said this Saturday is the annual lower harbor cleanup, organized by Diver Don. She said several people over the years have come to City Commission meetings with various fixations, but that they seem to lose momentum eventually. She said the issues of access to Presque Isle is very important and that she won't stop talking about it.

Brian Miller said he has no plans to run for office, but that he is still focused on the issue of fluoridation of drinking water. He said it's important to focus on the concentration and dosage when discussing fluoride intake.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Larson said there are a lot of discussions still to take place regarding the Cliffs-Dow site and the possibility of a related deal. He talked about the Commission's recent tour of the water and wastewater plant, and he praised the associated staff.

Commissioner Ottaway thanked the City's Public Works department, and talked about the impacts of, and quick cleanup following, the large storm and rainstorm late last week.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis praised Mark O'Neill, the City's Director of Municipal Utilities, and his staff, and he agreed that the recent tour was great. He thanked the residents that came to tonight's meeting to discuss the walking hours at Presque Isle.

Commissioner Smith agreed the tour was great and praised DPW and other City staff.

Commissioner Stonehouse said he's been on the City Commission for 12 years, and said there is always a debate about what's best for Presque Isle. He said the impacts of activity are clear, and the island is literally getting smaller. He said staff from the U.S. Coast Guard Station Marquette rescued five people from a burning boat at Pictured Rocks recently. He said the USCG is vital to the region, and said he recalls people years ago saying the City shouldn't allow the station to be built at its current location. He said the anniversary of the Marquette Harbor Light is coming up next month, and he spoke about the importance of the historic structure.

Commissioner Hanley said she has nothing additional to add.

Mayor Mayer said he also had no additional comments.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said the City's rubbish and compost drop-off sites will be closed this week for some maintenance but will re-open after. She also reminded everyone that Wednesday is National Noon Out and will include an outdoor event at the Police Department.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

If you require assistance to participate in any meeting, program or activity offered by the City of Marquette, please provide advanced notice to City of Marquette ADA Coordinator Eric Stemen at 906-225-8978 or via email at estemen@marquettemi.gov.