



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, August 8, 2022
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Mayer, Smith, Stonehouse

Absent: Hill

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to excuse Commissioner Jenn Hill due to illness, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointments

Robert Kulisheck, Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for an unexpired term ending 02-01-25

Wendy Hill-Manson, Harbor Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-24

Anne Donohue, Harbor Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-23

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner 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.

James Gallant spoke about the City's Ethics Ordinance, the need for cleanup of the forest on Presque Isle, the process for City appointments and Robert's Rules of Order. Margaret Brumm talked about the City letter addressed to Attorney General Dana Nessel, Item 3.d on tonight's agenda. She suggested the Commission remove the item from the agenda.

Public Hearing(s)

2. Land Development Code Amendments - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing.
James Gallant spoke about the need to follow Robert's Rules of Order.
With no one else looking to speak, Mayor Smith closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve approve Ordinance 713, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,136,840.97

3.c. Detention Basin Maintenance

3.d. Letter to Michigan Attorney General- Former Hospital Redevelopment

3.e. Marquette Outdoors - Tourist Park Kayak Rental Lease

3.f. Rotary Club of Marquette West - Special Event Permit

3.g. U.P. Beer Festival - Special Event Permit

Unfinished Business

4. NFPA Fire and Life Safety Ordinances - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Adopt Ordinance 703, 704 and 705, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse.

Following the motion, Mayor Smith turned the floor over to Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins for a presentation on this topic. Mr. Hobbins provided history of this discussion and the benefit of adopting the proposed ordinances, and he detailed the ways in which state codes and statutes interact with local regulation.

Following the discussion, the Commission discussed the possible impacts of this adoption, and through discussion with staff clarified the ways in which this might impact tenants, landowners, contractors and business owners.

Commissioner Stonehouse said he would like staff to look into also adopting NFPA 909 and 914, which are directed at the protection of cultural resource properties and historic structures.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer then moved to amend the original motion in order to include the direction that staff explore the adoption of NFPA 909 and 914 and present the findings to the Commission at a later date. Commissioner Stonehouse seconded.

Commissioners Hanley and Bonsall both said they would like to know more about the additional codes, but that they weren't sure it was necessary to amend the original motion. The Commission then voted, and the motion to amend carried 4-2, with Commissioners Hanley and Bonsall voting no.

The Commission then voted on the main motion, as amended, which was now to Adopt Ordinance 703, 704 and 705 and to direct staff to explore the adoption of NFPA 909 and 914, and to present the findings to the commission at a later date. This motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

New Business

5. EV Smart Communities Commitment Letter

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the letter of commitment to the EV Smart Communities program and authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

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

Brian Miller talked about water fluoridation and shared information from recent studies. James Gallant said the it was important for the City Commission's advisory boards and committees to also follow the rules.

Barb Owdziej said the comments from the previous commenter are becoming tiring and she wishes it would stop.

Margaret Brumm said a prior speaker talked about the danger of water fluoridation, but noted that this has not proven to be detrimental in her personal experience. She said she wants the City to be aware that she has recently found debris, including broken glass and a razor blade, on a City street.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Stonehouse talked about the activity along the waterfront recently, highlighting the recent harbor cleanup effort, the Michigan Lighthouse Festival and the Southshore Fishing Association Veterans Fishing Event. He said he is looking forward to the upcoming tall ships festival.

Commissioner Bonsall thanked his colleagues for a productive meeting tonight. He talked about last week's Statewide Primary Election, which he said seemed to be run very efficiently at a local level. He said he was pleased to see results reported quickly and he thanked the City Clerk's staff, including all of the citizens that worked throughout Election Day to make sure that this vital process went off without a hitch.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioner Stonehouse for highlighting the harbor events from last weekend and those yet upcoming.

Commissioner Hanley congratulated the Fire Department on the success of the recent Fill-the-Boot campaign. She also congratulated Commissioner Jenn Hill on her victory in the Democratic Primary for the 109th District seat in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer had no comments.

Mayor Smith talked about Blueberry Fest, and said she recently met with Chris

Germain from the Lake Superior Community Partnership, as well as with the Consulate-General of Japan. She spoke about some forthcoming topics: she will be partaking in a local mental health task force this week; there will be updates later this week on the NMU presidential search, for which she is on the committee; there is an upcoming Michigan Civic Coalition event at the library; and the City Commission is currently planning to conduct a single all-day budget on August 25.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said Community Office Hours are coming up on Wednesday. She spoke about the veterans fishing event and about hopes for future events. She also noted that there has been some significant contamination in the city's drop-off glass recycling recently and said contamination must be limited in order for the system to function.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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