



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

**Monday, August 11, 2025
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

*Approved with amendment
August 25, 2025*

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Hanley had no announcements.

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

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing(s)

1. Downtown Development Authority TIF Plan #5 - Roll Call Vote

DDA Executive Director Tara Laase-McKinney gave a presentation about the proposed TIF Plan.

Following the presentation, Mayor Hanley opened the public hearing; no members of the public spoke during the hearing, and the Mayor closed the session.

Commissioner Ottaway then moved to approve DDA TIF Plan #5 and adopt Ordinance #25-08. Commissioner Gottlieb seconded the motion and discussion ensued.

Commissioners, city staff and Director Laase-McKinney talked about the need for a TIF extension, the timeline for the plan and the DDA's future plans.

The commission then voted on the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

2.a. Approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025 special Commission meeting

2.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$252,572.68

2.c. Ordinance 25-09: Street-Naming Process - Roll Call Vote

2.d. Ordinance 25-10: General Provisions

2.e. Ordinance 25-11: Alcoholic Liquors

2.f. Schedule Public Hearing - 401 W. Washington Street Brownfield Plan - Roll Call Vote

2.g. Tourist Park Day-Use Access and Parking Area

New Business

3. DDA Revenue Sharing Agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel moved to approve the Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Marquette Downtown Development Authority, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mayer, and discussion ensued.

Commissioners generally supported the concept of the agreement, with some debate about specific provisions and about the built-in timeline for City Commission review, which was set at every five years.

Commissioner Davis then moved to amend the motion, recommending that the Commission approve the agreement with a three-year automatic review. Discussion around the proposed change focused on the novelty of the concept and the importance of early oversight, but Commissioners also pointed out that city and DDA staff could provide regular updates during the term and noted that earlier reviews could happen regardless of the mandatory review detailed in the agreement.

Following discussion Commissioner Davis offered to rescind her motion to amend. With no objections noted, the motion was rescinded.

The commission then voted on the original motion, to approve the Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Marquette Downtown Development Authority, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement. That motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please

state your name and physical address when making public comments.

Geraldine Nault discussed the TIF extension, noting that the topic is very complicated and not easy to understand. **She is not in favor of another City/DDA TIF. It takes money from the City taxes.**

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Gottlieb offered a brief report from the initial meeting of the E-Bike and Multi-Use Path Task Force. He said the group will continue to meet on an almost weekly basis, and he said he anticipates that a good compromise will make everyone feel unsatisfied.

Commissioner Larson said he appreciated the robust discussions today, including the strategic planning discussion in the earlier work session.

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel - echoed appreciation for the good discussion, and shared an anecdote about sitting down with residents in a neighborhood to discuss traffic and safety concerns.

Commissioner Mayer spoke about TIF mechanisms and how they can be beneficial, noting Marquette's strong and vibrant downtown.

Mayor Hanley thanked the rest of the commission for a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion on the DDA agreement and praised staff for the work that went into it.

Commissioners Davis and **Ottaway** had no comments.

Comments from the City Manager

Manager Kovacs thanked the commission for a serious and thoughtful discussion, indicating that the questions and issues raised prior had led staff to analyze the issue more deeply. She said she was proud of the commission's careful attention to the city's financial position, something many other municipalities lack, and she emphasized the importance of the DDA as an economic development tool, noting it is one of the city's most visible and impactful investments.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, 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.