



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, August 29, 2022
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment

Dallas Fetter, Planning Commission, for an unexpired term ending 02-15-25
Daniel Torres, Harbor Advisor Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-25
Christopher Jason, Harbor Advisor Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-23
Michael Potts, Harbor Advisor Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-23

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the appointments as listed on the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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

Barb Owdziej requested the Commission consider pedestrian safety as part of the FY 23 budget.

Katie Kuhlman and Courtney Valasquez spoke to bring awareness to the foster care placement crisis. They stated there is a critical need for additional foster homes in the Marquette county area and the state of Michigan. They encouraged individuals and families who may be interested in foster care to reach out and consider getting involved. Donald Eaton spoke on behalf of the Elk's Lodge requesting permanent parking for their members.

Matthew Luttenberger addressed electricity and solar panels in the city of Marquette. He also spoke on the concept of housing in Marquette.

Presentation(s)

2. Board of Zoning Appeals, by Chair Jermey Ottaway

Jermey Ottaway presented to the Commission on behalf the Board of Zoning Appeals. He explained the most pressing issue is the number of vacancies on the Board and attracting new members. He gave a brief summary of the meeting schedule and the Board's role. He explained the Board is a requirement of the City Charter and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2006. Mr. Ottaway stated because of the changes made in the Land Development Code the number of meetings have been reduced. Meetings are based off of requests; the most common request are for variances. He stated their biggest goal is to gain new members and seek educational opportunities.

3. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 special Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$ 3,357,724.98

3.c. 2023 BCBSM Medicare Advantage PPO Group Contract

3.d. KBIC Funding for the Marquette City Fire Department

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

3.f. Queen City Courts - Hurley Park Mural - Artist Contract

New Business

4. Presque Isle Dredging Project - National Environmental Policy Act - Professional Services Contracts

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the selection of GEI Consultants of Marquette, Michigan for professional services related to NEP review work in an amount not-to exceed \$88,314. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stonehouse stated this is a good project for Marquette because Marquette is still a commercial port and this is a way of maintaining it.

Commissioner Hill requested clarification for the public on what exactly will happen with the material that is accumulated from the dredging. Staff's explanation indicated the sandbar will be removed and repurposed to provide beach nourishment as part of Phase 2 of the Lakeshore Boulevard project.

The Commission generally agreed to have staff provide a public update on the Lakeshore Boulevard project in the near future.

Following discussion the Commission took a vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve Motion, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

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

Barb Owdziej continued from her first public comment regarding consideration of pedestrian safety within the budget, giving specific examples of ways to address public safety within our community.

Margaret Brumm provided information on an upcoming Planning Commission meeting and public hearing being held on September 6. She also stated she will be hosting an art show at Peter White Library on September 10.

Pam Laurich of the Elk's Lodge, also requested consideration for permanent parking for their members. She stated the challenges members face with the lack of permanent parking.

Geraldine Nault acknowledged the KBIC grant that was awarded to the fire department for cardiovascular exercise equipment. She thanked the city for taking advantage of grant opportunities.

Ethan Rayhorn addressed a recent vehicle/pedestrian incident which impacted his family.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Davis acknowledged the Public Art Commission for their efforts with the Hurley park, basketball court mural which engages youth in our community.

Commissioner Hanley reminded everyone with the new school year beginning to stop for buses and be aware of pedestrians and children crossing the cross walk to and from school.

Mayer Pro Tem Mayer requested that the City Manager explain during her time for comment, the Planning Commission review process for an upcoming development.

Commissioner Hill congratulated the individuals who put on Harbor Fest and stated Harbor Fest is a fundraiser for the community. She also acknowledged Blues Fest which is set to take place this weekend. She welcomed back NMU students. Lastly, Hill requested the City Manager address the strategic planning process during the City Manager comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Stonehouse echoed other commissioners on the success of Harbor Fest, pedestrian safety, and encouraged everyone to get out and see the public art at Hurley field.

Commissioner Bonsall thanked KBIC for the grant awarded to the fire department. He stated his excitement to see the Hurley court be revitalized. He thanked the public commenters for sharing their stories which provide multiple perspectives on pedestrian safety in the community.

Mayor Smith recognized the public commenters who highlighted the need for foster care

in the community. She touched on the budget meeting that took place last week, stating where the meeting could be found for viewing and how to obtain budget material. The Mayor mentioned she is part of the search committee to hire a new president at NMU, indicating interviews have been scheduled but names have not yet been released. Finally she addressed Governor Whitmer's recent visit to Marquette, stating the Governor spoke at the veterans home regarding plans for a new facility in the area.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs addressed the questions brought forth by the Mayor Pro Tem and Commissioner Hill. She explained the Special Land Use request process, stating the Planning Commission's job is to review the request and determine if the request meets the standards set by the Land Development Code and that it is a permissible use for the zoned area.

She answered the second question regarding strategic planning stating, the Community Master Planning process is steered by the Planning Commission. Recently an RFP has gone out for consultants for the Community Master Planning process. Currently the request for proposals are being reviewed and scored. After a selection is made the consultant meets with the Planning Commission and a steering committee is formed. The consultant will help develop a timeline, gather input and collect data. She emphasized the importance of community input stating there will be a number of opportunities for community engagement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Rachel Quayle, Deputy City Clerk

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