



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, September 9, 2024
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Davis had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Travis Gerhart, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 06-1-27.

Athena Stanley, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 06-1-26.

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Margaret Brumm indicated that several students from her university class were present at tonight's meeting and would be introducing themselves during public comment.

Steve Reed read a statement from Dick Constance, the president of the Brookstone Condominium Association. The statement expressed an interest in the city developing a multi-use pathway along Wilson Street, from McClellan to U.S. 41.

NMU students Andrew Karston, Maribel Zamora, Piper Morrison, Morgan Blazei and Justin Love said they were attending the meeting for their MG221 course.

Presentation(s)

2. Planning Commission, by Chair Sarah Mittlefehldt

City Planning Commission Chair Sarah Mittlefehldt offered an annual update from her board, providing an overview of the Planning Commission's activities, with a focus on the board's topics of interest

Commissioners praised the important work of the Planning Commission, with several saying that they had experience serving on the Planning Commission and noting how much work it truly is.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Budget and General Appropriations Act - Fiscal Year 2025 - Roll Call Vote

City Manager Karen Kovacs offered a high-level presentation about the proposed budget.

She said that, for the first time since she began working in the City, the proposed budget is balanced without the use of fund balance. Looking to the coming year and beyond, she focused on future plans and on the City's progress on paying down debt. She spoke about the pros and cons of municipal debt.

She also touched on plans for utility rates, discussing the City's utility rate study, which indicates that future rate increases will be significantly smaller. Finally, she highlighted the plans for the City's capital improvements this year, which are scaled down significantly from some previous years.

Mayor Davis opened the public hearing.

Margaret Brumm congratulated the City Manager on balancing the budget without using fund balance. She advocated for exploring a process whereby the City could consolidate public art and basic maintenance/repair projects, suggesting that public art funds could be used to repair the stairs on Presque Isle or to purchase new lights for the piers.

Geraldine Nault thanked the CC and staff for the balanced budget.

Barb Owdziej said she agreed with Ms. Brumm's concept, and would like public art money to be used for road crossings.

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and General Appropriations Act, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$ 1,803,767.28

4.c. Axon Body Camera Replacement

4.d. KBIC Funding for the YMCA

4.e. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the YMCA

4.f. Proclamation - Alzheimer's Awareness

4.g. UPSET Lease Agreement

New Business

5. Audit Contract for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve a three-year contract for annual audit services with Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC in the amounts of \$62,850 for FY 2024; \$66,685 for FY 2025; and \$70,700 for FY 2026; and authorize the Chief Financial Officer to sign the contract, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Steve Reed finished reading Dick Constance's statement about the multi-use path. Margaret Brumm spoke about the various ways (absentee voting, early voting, Election Day voting) that citizens can choose to cast a ballot in Michigan elections and the upcoming school board election.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Smith talked about last Friday's unveiling of the Seven Grandfathers sculpture, and urged people to check it out.

Commissioner Larson echoed that sentiment and said the sculpture is great and that the bust tour ahead of the unveiling was also interesting.

Commissioner Mayer said he was happy to be in town Friday with tribal leaders from three nations.

Commissioner Ottaway said the sculpture ceremony was touching and he was happy to simply be able to witness it.

Mayor Pro Tem Hanley thanked the students for coming, said it's great for people to be involved in their community, and urged them to become involved with the City's advisory boards and committees.

Commissioner Schloegel also praised the events around the unveiling of the Seven Grandfathers sculpture. He also encouraged the students present to go chat with the City Manager during one of her open office hours sessions.

Mayor Davis praised the budget and thanked the students for coming.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs provided a brief history of the pathway conversation.

Adjournment

Mayor Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Sally Davis, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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