



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, September 11, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Absent: Stonehouse

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Mayer stated that September 15 was the start of the City's "Trash to Treasure" event in the city, and stated that unclaimed items would need to be removed by 5 p.m. on September 17. He also requested that those present hold a moment of silence in acknowledgement of the lives lost 22 years ago, on September 11, 2001.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Brianna Hobbins, Marquette Public Art Commission, for an unexpired term ending 2-26-25

Gerald Kujawa, Traffic/Parking Advisory Board, for an unexpired term ending 5-30-25

Colleen Roberts, Traffic/Parking Advisory Board, for an unexpired term ending 5-30-25

Douglas Davis, Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for an unexpired term ending 2-1-25

James Rankin, Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for an unexpired term ending 2-1-24

Caden Reed, Marquette Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 6-1-26

Demetrios Kaltsas, Board of Zoning Appeals, for an unexpired term ending 2-15-25

Commissioner Jennifer Smith 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 spoke of the positive impression that the City Commission left on her students, who attended the last meeting.

Ryan Redman, representing Superior Connections, said he would like to give a presentation to the City Commission to discuss how to most effectively help with homelessness and addiction in the community.

Presentation(s)

2. Charter Study Group, by City Clerk Kyle Whitney

City Clerk Kyle Whitney spoke about the work that has been done by the City Charter Study Group, which was appointed by the City Commission in December of 2022. The group, which includes Clerk Whitney, City Manager aren Kovacs and City Attorney Suzanne Larsen, has conducted a full review of the Charter and has compiled a shortlist of possible amendments. The Clerk explained the process, went over the six amendments that made the shortlist, and said the Commission would be asked to schedule a public hearing for October, after which staff would seek direction from the Commission.

Commissioners shared their thoughts on the information that was presented, with several commissioners voicing support for certain proposals, especially for the recommendation to eliminate term limits on board and committee members appointed by the City Commission.

3. Downtown Development Authority Third Street TIF Update, by Executive Director Tara Laase-McKinney

Downtown Development Authority Director Tara Laase-McKinney went over the history of the DDA and of the district's current tax-increment financing plan. She presented a plan to extend the expiration deadline of the TIF plan, while also incorporating the Third Street corridor into the plan. She explained how important the TIF revenue is to the DDA and shared what an increase would mean.

Commissioners commented on the importance of the DDA and asked some follow-up questions.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

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

4.a. Approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,549,563.04

4.c. Contract for Transcription Services

4.d. Lease for Temporary Public Art Sound Light Installation

4.e. Schedule Public Hearing - Cliffs Dow Brownfield Plan Amendment - Roll Call Vote

4.f. Schedule Public Hearing - Founders Landing Brownfield Plan Amendment - Roll Call Vote

4.g. Schedule Public Hearing - FY 2024 Budget

4.h. Schedule Public Hearing - Possible City Charter Amendments

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Margaret Brumm spoke about the research happening on campus related to hemp and PFAS chemicals.

Barb Owdziej spoke about the DDA TIF expansion, and said she would like the City to focus more on pedestrian safety concerns in the DDA district.

Demetrios Kaltsas thanked the City Commission for all they do, and talked about a missing buoy in Lambros Park, as well as about bike and pedestrian safety on Third Street.

Angela Rayhorn talked about how she enjoyed living near Third Street and praised the DDA. She also spoke about pedestrian safety.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Davis thanked the Mayor for holding a moment of silence for 9/11, and she said this should be recognized as a day in which the nation and culture changed. She said she does think residents often avoid Third Street due to safety concerns. She welcomed Mr. Kaltsas and thanked him for stepping up to serve on the BZA.

Commissioner Smith had no comments.

Commissioner Hanley had no comments.

Commissioner Larson said TIF is a bad name and is confusing, but said the DDA did a great job in explaining what it is and how it works. He noted a transition into the school year and the fall.

Commissioner Ottaway thanked the police for their positive presence at Beer Fest. He thanked Mr. Kaltsas for joining the BZA and he thanked those that spoke about safety. He said an increased TIF may, in fact, support safety along Third Street.

Mayor Mayer asked for an update on the Social District. Police Chief Grim said the police have seen no increase in activity in the area.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said the buoy was removed and needs to be repaired, and will be replaced next year. She said staff will look into whether a hazard exists in the area. She pointed interested residents to the DDA's Third Street Corridor Sustainable Development Plan.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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