



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2022

Special Meeting

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

There were 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 at this point.

1. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

1.a. Approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022 regular Commission meeting

New Business

2. Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate Update

Mayor Jenna Smith arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Collin Drat, from Raftelis, walked the City Commission through a presentation about the current state of the City's utility funds. Mr. Drat focused on forecasts for revenues, expenditures and capital outlay related to the water, wastewater and sewer funds, as well as projections for these various funds into future years.

He said that based on the most recent data, his firm was recommending monthly increases that are much lower than what had been anticipated. The proposal, he

said, would increase the average homeowner's monthly bill -- for all City utilities -- by just over \$4 in the coming fiscal year.

Following the presentation, City Manager Karen Kovacs discussed the City's Advanced Metering Infrastructure program, and indicated that the plan is to ultimately give residents access to the individual usage data from their meter. Ms. Kovacs provided a utility budget report to the Commission, as well as a document comparing water/wastewater bills from other Upper Peninsula municipalities.

Commission discussion ensued, with Commissioners expressing concern about the possible overall impact of even minor increases over the course of a decade, but expressed appreciation that the timeframe allows for the impact to be lessened as necessary increases are smoothed over years. Commissioners talked about climate concerns, a need to prepare City infrastructure for rare and damaging storm events, rate impacts on residential shutoffs, and customer assistance programs.

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 at this point.

Comments from the Commission

There were no additional Commissioner comments at this point.

Comments from the City Manager

The City Manager had no closing comments.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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