



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, September 26, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith asked City Clerk Kyle Whitney for an update on the election prep for the November midterm election. The Clerk stated that ballots would be mailed out this week to voters that have requested one. He said residents looking to register to vote or request an absentee ballot can begin the process by contacting the clerk or by going online to www.mi.gov/vote.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

George Patrick Jr., Board of Zoning Appeals, for an unexpired term ending 02-15-24
James Breitenbach, Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 05-30-25

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

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

Alesia Braund, Taylor Ruotsala, Shilpa Jhobalia, Abrielle Londo, Christine Stearn, Ryan Stock, Britta Carlson and Angela Rayhorn spoke about local struggles with the cost and availability of childcare and voiced a desire to find solutions. They also shared concerns with recent Marquette County Board decisions related to allocation of ARPA money.

Johanna Worley spoke about a recent Constitution Day event that the League of Women Voters of Marquette county was involved in and read a letter, addressed to the Mayor and City Manager, written by students who attended the event.

Presentation(s)

2. Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, by Madeline Arquette

Madeline Arquette presented on behalf of the City's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, sharing information about the board, the City's Arts and Culture division and the plans for the future.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Budget and General Appropriations Act - FY 2023 - Roll Call Vote

Shilpa Jhobalia spoke about local childcare struggles. She said she doesn't think there is much money available at the City level, but that they would accept any aid.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and General Appropriations Act, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer.

Commissioner Davis said this budget process has been tough. She thanked staff for the work that went into this.

Mayor Pro Team Mayer agreed, and said the only real ARPA funding received by the City has been used to help offset costs of basic services.

Commissioners spoke about the possibility of being able to help in the near future with the childcare issue, if only in a small way.

Mayor Smith talked about the budget and the issues with local childcare costs and availability. She said she has been trying to help in this sphere for a decade and is willing to help wherever possible.

The Commission then voted on the motion, which carried unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 special Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 regular Commission meeting

4.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$ 2,745,501.61

4.d. 2022 Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

4.e. Community Development Block Grant Consultant

4.f. Fire Department Turnout Gear

- 4.g. KBIC Funding for the YMCA
- 4.h. Marquette Board of Light and Power – Lease Agreement
- 4.i. Presque Isle Dredging Project - MOU
- 4.j. Presque Isle Marina - Construction Services
- 4.k. Purchase of 96-gallon Recycling Carts
- 4.l. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the YMCA
- 4.m. Schedule Public Hearing - Water Ordinance
- 4.n. Wastewater and Water Treatment Chemicals

New Business

5. Budget Adjustment - Fiscal Year End 2022

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2022, and authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary adjustments to balance the budgets, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

6. City Attorney Evaluation

Commissioner Jenn Hill moved to Approve the City Attorney's annual performance evaluation and extend the term of the Attorney's contract by two years to Sept. 30, 2024 at the existing compensation level, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

7. City Manager Evaluation

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the City Manager's evaluation and extend the term of the Manager's contract by two years to Sept. 30, 2024 at the existing compensation level, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

8. Contract for Community Master Plan Update

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the recommendation to hire Beckett and Raeder as the primary consultant to assist with the Community Master Plan update, and direct the City Manager to execute the contract, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

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

Taylor Ruotsala, Britta Carlson, Barb Owdziej, Shilpa Jhobalia and Gwen Storm offered additional comments about local childcare struggles.

Angela Rayhorn discussed City efforts related to pedestrian safety and about how to make a difference in a budget-friendly way.

Orville Dishno said the City Commission should not forget about the City's surplus property list when making budgeting plans.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hill asked the City Manager to share some of the recent discussions surrounding childcare in the city. **City Manager Karen Kovacs** provided an update on some local discussions, and shared background, plans and concerns. **Community Development Director Dennis Stachewicz** shared zoning information, and said basic in-home daycares are permitted in most districts, but said the state requirements and inspections are often burdensome for providers.

Commissioner Stonehouse said people concerned about childcare struggles in the area need data to work with, and they don't have it. He said there is a significant need, but that he wants solid data to work from.

Commissioner Bonsall said he attended the County board meeting where these childcare concerns were discussed and said he is encouraged to see the same people today. The most important job of local government, he said, is to provide a livable community and as housing and childcare are issues that impact the wellbeing of kids and families, people should expect elected officials to try to help. He said availability of childcare is a problem, but Marquette County is also one of the most expensive in the state for childcare.

Commissioner Davis said the Commissioners and staff understand this issue on a personal level and thanked the commenters from tonight's meeting. She said that homelessness is also a major issue impacting families, and both should be focused on.

Commissioner Hanley said she has experienced the issues with local childcare first-hand and talked about possible roads to countywide solutions. She noted the City's current budget constraints and said the City Master Planning process will be very important.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer thanked the public for their comments. He said he understands the issues being discussed and wishes the City could do more to help.

Mayor Smith said she was thankful to have heard the individual stories shared tonight and that they illustrate important needs in the community. She praised the City Manager and Attorney on the work they've done in the past year.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the City Commission.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, 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.