City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes
City Commission

Monday, September 27, 2021
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 Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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.

Public Hearing(s)

1. Budget and General Appropriations Act - FY 2022 - Roll Call Vote

Margaret Brumm spoke during the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing. She asked a few questions regarding the upcoming FY 22 budget.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the FY 22 Budget and General Appropriation Act, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bonsall opened the discussion by addressing the fee schedule, and acknowledge a citizen's concern about the price of a Block Party permit. He turned to staff for clarification on the fee.

Commissioner Bonsall then offered an amendment to the original motion, to reduce the non community event street closure fee on page 31, from $250 to $100. This motion was seconded by Hill, and discussion proceeded on the amended motion.

Through discussion, there was a general agreement to schedule future time to further evaluate the cost of these permits, as these neighborhood events are specific to City residents and provide a strong sense of community. The City Manager explained that the fee schedule can be amended through a Resolution, which allows the City Commission to take time to review Block Parties at a later date.

Following discussion, the amended motion was withdrawn and discussion resumed on the original motion with a focus on road projects and utility rates.

Eventually, the Commission voted on the original motion, to approve the FY 22 Budget and General Appropriation Act. The motion Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

2. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the consent agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

2.a. Approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 regular Commission meeting

2.b. Approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Commission closed session

2.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of $652,476.65

2.d. 2021 Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

2.e. Noquemanon Trails Network - Office and Storage Lease Agreement

2.f. Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider Establishing an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District

2.g. Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

2.h. Water Treatment Chemicals

Unfinished Business

3. Budget Adjustment - Fiscal Year End 2021

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2021, and authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary adjustments to balance the budget, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

New Business

4. Letter of Support – Recycling Partnership Residential Curbside Recycling Cart Grant

Commissioner Davis moved to suspend the rules for discussion, seconded by Commissioner Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

The City Manager explained the relationship between the two grants. The EGLE

Infrastructure grant will cover about 80% of the proposed project. She explained if the EGLE Infrastructure grant is not awarded, the City would not receive the remaining funding from the Recycling Partnership grant. The goal is to fully fund the project through the utilization of these two grants, and to cover the cost of a recycling cart for all homes with five units or fewer in the City of Marquette.

Commissioners discussed the impact of the Recycling grants and how the implementation of the recycling carts could impact City residents.

If the partnership grants are awarded, residents who already have carts would no longer have a monthly fee for those carts. The City is currently renting the carts and this would give City ownership of the carts; the City would then be responsible for repair and replacement.

About 40% of residents are using carts and this would shift everyone to the cart system. Commissioner Stonehouse voiced concern with the idea of making the cart system mandatory, and said residents should have the ability to choose whether they want to use the cart.

Commissioners asked staff for information on the successes and struggles other communities in our area have experienced with switching to the cart system. Staff also offered an update on the future plans for glass recycling.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the submission of the aforementioned grants and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support for the Recycling Partnership grant, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Passed.

The motion passed 6-1, with Commissioner Stonehouse voting no.

5. City Manager Evaluation

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the City Manager's annual performance evaluation and direct the evaluation subcommittee to meet with the City Manager to review Commission feedback as well as goals for the coming year, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

6. City Attorney Evaluation

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the City Attorney's annual performance evaluation and direct the evaluation subcommittee to meet with the City Attorney to review Commission feedback as well as goals for the coming year, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

7. Lakeshore Boulevard Coastal Restoration Professional Services Contract

City staff provided a map of the Lakeshore Blvd. property for a better depiction of the project. Staff explained details and timeline of the project.

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the selection of RES, of West Dundee, Illinois for professional services related to the Michigan Coastal Management Program project area at Lakeshore Boulevard in the amount of $9,600, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

8. Request to Waive the Minimum Size for Planned Unit Development

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve to waive the two-acre minimum size requirement for the 1025 Osprey Court Planned Unit Development proposal, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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Dave Allen, director of Innovalab spoke about the plans and price point for the townhouse project at 1025 Osprey Court. He thanked the Commission for their approval.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Mayer had no comments.
Commissioner Stonehouse stated he was able to get the Covid-19 booster shot and encouraged others who are eligible to do the same. He also pointed out NMU homecoming is this coming weekend.
Commissioner Bonsall thanked David Allen for his involvement in the Osprey Court project and thanked him for his advisement he gave to the Ad-Hoc housing committee in regards to the work he did in Grand Rapids.
Commissioner Davis also thanked Mr. Allen for his work in our community and stated she will be getting her booster shot. She acknowledged the MML conference that was attended by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and herself.
Commissioner Hanley echoed Commissioner Bonsall and Davis by thanking Mr. Allen on the project and is excited to see where this goes and future collaboration with the City, to grow the workforce housing in Marquette.
Mayor Pro Tem Hill pointed out concern by residents with the construction at Two Marquette Place. She said concerns are that a vital route is being closed, people have limited access to the bike path and alternative routes do not feel safe. She noted that the concerns are being heard.
Mayor Smith thanked the City Manager, Department Heads, and City staff for the effort that was poured into the FY 22 Budget. She also asked for clarification on when customers would see utility rate increases. Staff indicated that the new rates would be reflected on the bills for services begin on October 1, 2021.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked to the Commission for the work that was done for the FY 22 budget. She showed appreciation to the Commission for their willingness to have open conversations, which provided ideas and solutions. She invited the community to the October 2 Fire Prevention parade which will kick off Fire Prevention week.

Lastly she addressed the construction at Two Marquette Place and will be provided more feedback to the Commission soon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor	**Rachel Quayle, Deputy City Clerk**

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