



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

**Tuesday, October 12, 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 Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith said that the Morning Thunder Drum Group played a traditional song prior to tonight's meeting, in conjunction with tonight's land acknowledgment proclamation.

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

Ryan Stock, an assistant professor at Northern Michigan University, spoke about the threat posed by climate change, and about the need for strong leadership.

Isabel Homkamp, Eli Williams, Sarah Mittlefehldt, Sophia Benigni, Karen Schmidt, John O'Brien, Calista Rockwell, Joe Sabol and Annika Enders all spoke in support of a strong response to climate change and the attendant issues.

Lesley Williams spoke in opposition to the proposal to provide recycling carts for all residents, and said she would like the carts to be optional.

Margaret Brumm said the easiest and most direct step to take toward climate change mitigation is to keep the community clean, including picking up cigarette butts.

Presentation(s)

1. Presentation of MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Certification, by Christopher Germain, AICP, EDFP | Senior RRC Planner

Christopher Germain, representing the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, presented the City with an original sculpted wall hanging, acknowledging the City's recent designation as a Redevelopment Ready Community.

2. Downtown Development Authority, by Executive Director Becky Finco

Marquette Downtown Development Authority Director Becky Finco provided an

update on the DDA's activities and initiatives from the past year. This included updates on DDA projects, the Farmers Market and a list of newly opened businesses.

Commissioner Evan Bonsall said that the people gathered in the audience tonight should strongly consider becoming involved in the City in some way, and he suggested that the DDA board was a great way to become more involved in City activities.

Public Hearing(s)

3. Establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing.

Anne White stated that she was the property owner for 136 W. Washington Street and said she was available to provide any information the Commission may need. With no one else to speak, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District at 136 West Washington Street, and direct the Mayor and Clerk to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4. Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing. With no one to speak, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve a three-year Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act Exemption Certificate for 136 West Washington Street, and direct the Mayor and Clerk to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5.a. Approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 regular Commission meeting

5.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$8,295,523.21

5.c. Audit Contract for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2023

5.d. EDA Build Back Better Grant Resolution- Roll Call Vote

5.e. Hockey Mutineers of Marquette - Ice Use Agreement

5.f. Hockey Mutineers of Marquette - Lease Agreement

5.g. Novatime Software Solution

5.h. Proclamation- Land Acknowledgement

5.i. Tub Grinding Services

New Business

6. City Attorney Services

Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill moved to Authorize the creation of a three-member City Commission subcommittee - appointed by the mayor - to discuss City Attorney services and make a recommendation to the Commission on how to proceed, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

7. Marquette County Intergovernmental Housing Task Force Resolution - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the resolution supporting the Marquette County Intergovernmental Housing Task Force and appoint Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins as the representative for the City of Marquette, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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

Ryan Stock said he appreciated everyone who came today to support local climate action and he requested the City Commission draft a climate emergency resolution. Paul Schloegel said it was good to see so many people come to tonight's meeting and it was even better to see them stay for the entire meeting. He also spoke on some of the ways to begin improving an individual's impact on the climate and the environment. Margaret Brumm spoke about forming connections with others in the community and she asked people to give their time to the Hurley Field renovation project.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Stonehouse said the City Commission may want to re-evaluate its recent decision on recycling carts. He said the public response he has seen has indicated it's an issue. He congratulated the City on becoming a Redevelopment Ready Community, and explained a bit about the different boards and entities involved in the issues raised by the people raising concerns tonight about the impacts of climate change.

Commissioner Bonsall thanked those who attended tonight and said this is an effective way of making your voice heard in local government. He said climate change is a serious concern and that the City has been making moves in the right direction, though there is always more to be done. He encouraged residents to contact him directly if they had additional questions or concerns. He said the action on the county housing task force was great and that he agrees that recycling may need to be discussed further at a City Commission level.

Commissioner Davis asked the City Manager to share the official trick-or-treat hours, and noted that many DDA businesses will also be permitting trick-or-treating. She

thanked Mr. Stock and the others for attending tonight and said she agreed with Commissioner Bonsall and Mr. Schloegel - this is an issue that the City has made some progress on, and it's one that individuals can make a difference on. Said she wants a better and more effective recycling program, and asked residents to continue reaching out with their opinions.

Commissioner Hanley thanked those who spoke on climate change and said she agrees on the seriousness of the topic and that we should take swift steps. She said she would love to discuss the topics with people directly on this topic.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill thanked the residents and the drum group. She said the last 18 months has been rough for everyone and that the focus tonight seems very much on the future. A lot has changed, and she is looking forward to a community conversation about how to move forward as a community.

Commissioner Mayer spoke about how much has changed in the last two years. Two years ago he was student body president at NMU and he read a land acknowledgment proclamation and heard mixed feedback from the community. He said it was amazing tonight to hear the Mayor of Marquette read a similar citywide proclamation. He thanked people for turning out tonight and urged them to stay involved.

Mayor Smith thanked those that attended tonight and said that it truly impacts commissioners to see a group with a unified message show up and stay through the meeting. She commented on climate change, recycling carts and essential city services. She reminded residents that there is an election on Nov. 2 for seats on the City Commission and the Board of Light and Power.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs said the city is designating trick-or-treating hours from 4 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31. She noted that she will be hosting Community Office Hours this week and she noted that the archway on Presque Isle was damaged recently and will be repaired.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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