



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, October 24, 2022
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Bonsall, Hanley, Hill, Mayer, Smith

Absent: Davis, Stonehouse

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to excuse Commissioners Stonehouse and Davis due to personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Cadin Cahill, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for an unexpired term ending 01-29-23 and term ending 01-29-26

Christopher Rose, Marquette Housing Commission, for an unexpired term ending 01-25-25

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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

Meredith Lyons shared her concerns about recent utility rate increases, and said she is looking for a better explanation of the need for the increases.

2. Consent Agenda

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

- 2.a. Approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 regular Commission meeting
- 2.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,387,833.13
- 2.c. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 209 N. Fifth Street
- 2.d. Fire Police Pension Reciprocal Retirement Policy
- 2.e. Fuel Purchasing
- 2.f. Hockey Mutineers of Marquette - Ice Use Agreement
- 2.g. Hockey Mutineers of Marquette - Locker Room Lease Agreement
- 2.h. Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority Bill Payment
- 2.i. Noquemanon Trails Network - Office and Storage Lease Agreement
- 2.j. Purchase of Belt Press Polymer
- 2.k. Sale of Surplus Equipment
- 2.l. Utility Network Switches

New Business

- 3. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 848 Cedar St. and 511 E. Prospect St.

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Deny the request due to there being no apparent hardship or unusual circumstances that would justify allowing the enclosure of more of the public property, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill.

Discussion ensued, and applicant Matt Treado spoke during privileged comment. Commissioners indicated a reticence to establish a precedent and a concern that the Community Master Planning process may lead to a change in use for the City property in question.

Commissioner Hanley said a change of use could actually impact Treado's private property negatively. Commission and staff discussed the ability to require the future removal of the fence addition, if granted.

Commissioners then voted on the motion, which carried 4-1 with Commissioner Hanley voting no.

- 4. Donohue and Associates Inc. Engineering Services Contract

Commissioner Jenn Hill moved to Approve the contract with Donohue & Associates Inc. for the Solids Handling Improvements Project Re-Bid, Engineering Services During Construction and Applications Engineering Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$542,200, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract, 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.

Barb Owdziej said she is wondering what the public input process for the Community Master Plan is going to look like.

Margaret Brumm talked about the makeup of the Community Master Plan steering committee and asked the Commission to appoint her to the group. She also said she was impressed with the consultants for the project, but that she thinks they should come back to Marquette during the winter months.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Bonsall talked about the new schedule of planned utility rate increases, which is designed to be more long-term and modest and easier to budget for. He said the increases are definitely necessary and talked about the amount of infrastructure in the City, specifically about the amount of very old infrastructure, and said that rates haven't historically kept up with the necessary costs. Commissioner Bonsall reminded people about the upcoming election, and shared hours for the City Clerk's office, for those looking to vote absentee.

Commissioner Hanley said there was a special meeting about the utility rates. She talked about the upcoming election, asked staff questions about the formation of the Community Master Plan steering committee and reminded residents of next week's trick-or-treating hours.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer had no comments.

Commissioner Hill talked about utility bill assistance programs and said there are resources available for immediate needs. She also spoke about utility rates and brush pickup and wished everyone a happy Halloween.

Mayor Smith said the plan for the Community Master Plan community input sessions will be determined by the CMP steering committee and the consultants, but noted that it will be shared heavily when it's ready.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said the Community Master Plan steering committee was determined in part with recommendations from the consultants. She said it was intended to be a broad representation of the community, but that they know they will have to use the committee to reach beyond the groups directly represented and to promote participation.

She said staff would make sure the list of current board and committee openings is updated shortly.

She said water and sewer rate information is available online and she urged residents to contact the City Utility Billing Department if they need bill payment assistance.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk