



Meeting Minutes City Commission

**Monday, November 8, 2021
7:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

City Clerk Kyle Whitney opened the meeting, announcing that this was the City Commission's annual organizational meeting and that he would run the meeting. The Clerk administered oaths of office for Commissioners Jenn Hill and Jenna Smith, who were each re-elected to three-year terms in the Nov. 2 General Election. Clerk Whitney then administered Commission elections for Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year. Commissioner Jenna Smith was selected as mayor, by a unanimous vote. Commissioner Cody Mayer was selected as Mayor Pro Tem, after receiving four votes. The Clerk then administered the oaths of office to both of the newly elected officers, and then turned the meeting over to Mayor Smith.

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 reminded people that the final opportunity for leaf collection is this week.

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

Dave Hendrickson spoke about traffic-related issues and thanked city staff for their efforts to assist the community.

Robert Anderson, speaking on behalf of Voters Not Politicians, talked about a VNP resolution supporting voting rights.

Robert Kulisheck echoed the points of the previous speaker and said the VNP proposal is nonpartisan. He argued that it makes sense for the City Commission to take a stance on such a proposal, specifically because of its nonpartisan nature.

Andrew Dalian congratulated the newly elected commissioners. He suggested a focus on intergenerational housing and spoke about various federal funding opportunities. He also commended the officials in the room who were currently wearing masks, as it indicates that they are concerned about the health of others.

Nina van den Ende said that many residents at the Jacobetti Veterans Home do not have a driver's license and that this could be seen as an additional hurdle when it comes to

registering to vote.

Joe Sabol spoke on climate change and suggested that the City create an energy inventory in order to determine how much energy is used in total and per capita. He spoke on energy reductions and possible incentives in that direction.

Karen Schmidt thanked the Commission for their pledge to address climate change. She discussed Marquette County's climate and health adaptation plan and talked about how much more helpful a City plan could be.

1. Consent Agenda

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

1.a. Approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 regular Commission meeting

1.b. Approve the minutes from the October 28, 2021 Commission work session

1.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,645,694.77

1.d. Sale of Surplus Equipment

1.e. Street Sweeper Repair Components

1.f. Utilization of State Bid Pricing for Vehicle Purchase

New Business

2. Approve 2022 City Commission Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the 2022 City Commission Meeting Schedule, 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.

There were no public comments at this point.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Bonsall said some of the the arguments in favor of supporting the Voters Not Politicians resolution are persuasive. He also congratulated everyone who was elected in the November elections.

Commissioner Davis also congratulated everyone, and she thanked Karen Schmidt for coming, and for reading the county plan that she spoke about. Commissioner Davis said she supports the League of Women Voters stance on the issues discussed tonight, and said there is a draft resolution also being prepared by the League.

Commissioner Hanley congratulated the re-elected commissioners and thanked all speakers. She said she thinks voting rights are very important, and she said the point made by Nina van den Ende about older residents is noteworthy. She said she would like to see the Commission consider a climate action resolution, as well.

Commissioner Hill thanked all the voters for their support. She thanked Margaret

Brumm, who was also a candidate in the recent election, and said it was great that people are willing to step up and run for office. She said advisory boards are a great way for people to get involved in City government. She said she had not wanted to be Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year, as she wants to focus on key City planning processes that will be in front of the Commission this year. She voiced support for those that spoke tonight in favor of voting rights and she thanked the public that showed up. She also talked about the short-term rental bill in the state legislature and said it was vital for local governments to maintain the ability to regulate this use at a local level; any one-size-fits-all approach may only serve to worsen existing housing issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer congratulated Mayor Smith and Commissioner Hill on their re-election and said Mayor Smith is the first woman to serve three consecutive terms as Marquette's Mayor. He thanked the Commission for choosing him as Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year, and he also thanked the public for all the feedback today.

Commissioner Stonehouse urged residents to talk to State Senator Ed McBroom about the short-term rental bill as soon as possible. He congratulated his fellow commissioners on their re-elections, and on their appointments as officers. He discussed climate change, affordable housing, the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and Veterans Day.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for their support and congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Mayor on his appointment. She thanked all the residents that voted, and offered her appreciation to the staff of the City Clerk's office, including all election workers, who made the recent election run so smoothly. She said the discussion about the voting rights resolution has, by default, become a partisan conversation. That said, she said there is likely a lot of nonpartisan agreement to be had on the topic, and she would like to have further discussions, to see what can be done. She discussed some of the big-ticket planning issues facing the City this year, and stated that she is happy to be Mayor again, and that she does not plan to continue in that role following this upcoming year.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs congratulated commissioners on their re-election, and on appointments as officers for the coming year. She reminded residents that she will be holding public office hours at the library this week and invited any residents with questions or concerns to attend.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:54 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.