



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

**Monday, December 15, 2025
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Davis, Gottlieb, Hanley, Larson, Ottaway, Schloegel

Absent: Mayer

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to excuse Commissioner Cody Mayer for personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb asked to move Item 4.d to New Business.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to Approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayer Schloegel had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Hunter Volkmar to the LDFA for an unexpired term ending 8-1-2028

Mark Miller to the MBRA for an unexpired term ending 2-1-2027

Emerson Graves to the PAC for an unexpired term ending 2-26-27

Brian Glitt to the DDA for a term ending 1-1-2030

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

2. Reappointment(s)

Chris Durley to the DDA for a term ending 1-1-2030

Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the reappointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

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

Matt Blondeau said he was the applicant for the liquor license request on tonight's agenda. He provided a short overview of his plans for the project, and he said he was available if the City Commission had questions.

Presentation(s)

3. Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, by Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins

Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins, who serves as an appointed City representative to the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, offered an update on the board and the water treatment facility's activities during the prior year. He highlighted the operations of the plant and provided updates on recent projects.

After the presentation, Commissioners asked a handful of questions, with discussion focusing on the MAWTAB program to distribute fertilizer to local farms and lands, and on clarification about the facility's capabilities.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 work session

4.b. Approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 regular Commission meeting

4.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,150,684.22

4.d. (Item Moved to New Business)

4.e. Police Video Storage System

4.f. Roll-off Leaf Vacuum Purchase

4.g. Sale of Surplus Equipment

4.h. Senior Services - Master Agreement to Purchase Services

5. New Liquor License Application - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to deny the resolution recommending Michigan Liquor Control Commission approval of a new Development District liquor license for Sips and Suds, LLC at 629 North Third Street until (1) the Commission knows the request is for a location zoned for the proposed use; (2) the Commission hears more detail with what specific investment thresholds need to be met to qualify; and (3) assuming the City Commission ultimately passes a resolution and the MLCC approves it, the CC knows there will be an opportunity for the public, the Planning Commission or the City Commission to have concerns addressed about this type of usage at this location. Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway seconded the motion and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gottlieb requested information from staff.

City Attorney Suzanne Larsen said this is an unusual item for Commission review because it is for a new license, and she said the Commission's action is primarily to determine whether there is any reason the applicant should not be eligible for a liquor license, such as a history of local issues or concerns. She said investment thresholds and zoning regulations are not a part of the Commission review but said those would be reviewed and verified through existing processes.

Several commissioners stated they did not see a basis to deny this recommendation, emphasizing the agenda item was limited to the liquor license recommendation and that zoning/land use and state licensing requirements would be handled through the proper channels.

The Commission then voted on the motion to deny the resolution. This vote failed, with commissioners voting unanimously against it.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the attached resolution recommending Michigan Liquor Control Commission approval of a new Development District liquor license for Sips and Suds, LLC at 629 North Third Street, 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.

Matt Blondeau said he owns another liquor license in the City and has had no violations. He also said his project is a permitted use under the current zoning and that he has been in discussion with planning and zoning staff about his plans.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Davis wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Commissioners Gottlieb, Hanley and Larson had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway said he appreciated Commissioner Gottlieb for raising his questions and concerns tonight, as the discussion leads to the Commission really considering its role. He wished everyone a happy holidays.

Mayor Schloegel wished everyone a happy holidays and asked people to try to shop local this season and to look out for and help their neighbors if possible.

Comments from the City Manager

Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins wished everyone a happy holiday and asked residents to be considerate of the public employees that will be working during the holidays.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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