



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, December 20, 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 Evan Bonsall moved to Move Item 3.f from the Consent Agenda to New Business and to then approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith announced that the glass recycling program has changed and that all glass recycling will now be handled through drop-off locations at the Municipal Service Center and Waste Management, rather than via curbside pickup.

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

Margaret Brumm said she thinks the Commission should request an audit on the JCI project.

Patti Clancy thanked the Commission for their consideration of the climate resolution.

Karen Schmidt also thanked the Commission for the consideration of the climate resolution, and she discussed the need for, and importance of, the resolution.

Presentation(s)

1. Local Officers Compensation Commission, by Chair Susan Tollefson

LOCC Chair Sue Tollefson presented an update on the activities of her board, which makes recommendations for the compensation of local elected officials. She said the board meets very infrequently and doesn't require a huge investment of time, and she urged people to apply to serve, as several members will be terming out in the near future.

2. Johnson Controls Update, by Ron Stimac

Ron Stimac and George Roush, from Johnson Controls, offered an update to the City Commission on the JCI project. The pair highlighted the City's decreased energy usage and plans for the future, and discussed the state of the City's AMI

water meter project. There was discussion about finding a better way to categorize some of the project's impacts and how to best compare Marquette's energy performance against other municipalities.

3. Consent Agenda

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

3.a. Approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Commission work session

3.b. Approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 regular Commission meeting

3.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$792,497.01

3.d. Attorney Consulting Agreement

3.e. Equipment Replacement Lease - Switches

3.f. Noquemanon Ski Marathon Trail Access Permit

3.g. Senior Services - Master Agreement to Purchase Services

3.h. Water Filtration Membrane Purchase

3.i. WE Energies Ash Haul Road Relocation Agreement

New Business

4. National Opioids Settlement

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve authorize the City of Marquette to opt in to the National Opioids Settlement, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously.

5. Climate Action Resolution - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jenn Hill moved to Approve the Climate Action Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

6. Local Development Agreement - MDM Hemlock, L.L.C.

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Approve suspending the rules for discussion, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Passed.

This motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Stonehouse voting no.

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer asked a handful of questions of representatives from the Veridea Group, including what would happen if the City didn't agree to the development agreement and associated costs. Veridea Group President Robert Mahaney said there would be housing on this site regardless, but that without the

development agreement, the project would like quite a bit different. Commissioners and Mr. Mahaney discussed project timeline, unit cost, a need for local housing stock, utility infrastructure and similarly structured local projects. Some Commissioners raised concerns about the cost of the proposed units, the impact to the City from the development agreement and the fact that suggestions made by Commissioners during the work session on this topic had not been incorporated into the agreement. Commissioner Stonehouse noted the positive impact that could be felt from adding this much housing stock, and said this project could lead to a very positive tax benefit for the City.

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the Local Development Agreement as presented, direct the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement and amend the budget and Capital Improvement Plan to reflect the inclusion of this project in Fiscal Year 2022, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Passed.

This motion passed 4-3, with Commissioners Bonsall and Hanley and Mayor Pro Tem Mayer voting no.

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

Margaret Brumm said the Commission did a good job tonight and asked a lot of good, important questions. She offered verbal awards to a handful of community members for community contributions made in 2021.

Ryan Stock thanked the Commission for action on the climate resolution.

Tyler Penrod also thanked the Commission for support of the climate resolution.

Mike Smith of the U.P. Construction Council said it doesn't sound like the MDM Hemlock development that was approved tonight will create much of a benefit for local labor, but that he hopes it will.

Brian Kerrigan echoed these sentiments.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Bonsall thanked everyone in attendance tonight and said he was excited by the climate resolution. He said he voted no on the MDM Hemlock project due to questions of affordability, but that he hopes the development is successful.

Commissioner Davis wished everyone a happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Hanley wished everyone a happy holidays and urged those traveling to take a rapid test prior to their trip.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer spoke about the impacts of COVID and about the need to do everything we can to get the pandemic under control.

Commissioner Hill talked about the process used by the Commission when considering items and projects and said she would encourage consideration of a more complete process.

Commissioner Stonehouse wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Smith said people should check out the laser light display on side of the Lower Harbor the ore dock; these presentations will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays for the next few weeks. She said Merry Christmas and reminded everyone that the next meeting is Jan. 10.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs had no comments.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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