



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Special Meeting

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Absent: Mayer

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to excuse Commissioner Mayer for personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Hanley had no announcements.

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

Ron Matson, president of the Harlow Farms Conservation Community, said he would like the City to include a Wilson Street multi-use pathway in the City's plans.

1. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

1.a. Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular Commission meeting

New Business

2. Budget Overview

City Manager Karen Kovacs, Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins and City CFO Mary Schlicht led the Commission through the budget presentation, which included the presentation of a draft budget, which will be refined prior to being proposed for final adoption.

City Manager Kovacs highlighted challenges and successes, discussing the City's improved financial condition compared to just a few years ago, as well as future uncertainty across various revenue sources.

Staff emphasized challenges tied to limited revenue growth, rising costs for pensions and healthcare, and the City's specific revenue constraints. The presentation highlighted departmental requests, infrastructure needs, and long-term debt strategies.

Much of the discussion focused on questions of debt and bonding, as well as on the costs and challenge of maintaining roads and core infrastructure. The meeting included a presentation from City Engineer Mik Kilpela, who shared information about city infrastructure, including a discussion about long-term maintenance costs.

During the meeting, the Commission recessed for a brief break at 10:38 a.m., resuming the meeting at 10:45 a.m., and also recessed for lunch from roughly 11:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

There was no one to comment at the second public comment.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioners thanked staff for the information shared and prepared today, expressing appreciation for the process.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the City Commission and staff for their engagement during the session and emphasized the importance of the feedback provided. She stated that the Finance team would incorporate the Commission's input into revisions of the proposed budget.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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