



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

Special Meeting

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Ayes: Davis, Hanley, Larson, Mayer, Ottaway, Smith
Absent: Stonehouse

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Smith moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Stonehouse for personal reasons, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, and Carried Unanimously.

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

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

There was no public comment.

1. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hanley moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Larson and Carried Unanimously.

1.a. Approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular Commission meeting

New Business

2. Budget Overview

City Manager Karen Kovacs, City Chief Financial Officer Mary Schlicht and Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins opened the budget discussion with a brief overview of today's agenda. The City Manager explained the morning session will include, General Fund, Debt Service, Internal Service Funds, and will highlight specific topics within those areas. She stated the day will include a lunch break.

The City Manager provided a reminder of what the General Fund includes and lead the discussion throughout the morning. She highlighted specific components within the General Fund, such as an increased election budget due to changes made at the state level. During the presentation Commissioners asked clarifying questions and staff provided feedback.

At 9:55 Commissioner Smith moved to recess for 10 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

Following the recess staff provided a comparison of the FY 23 long term budget outlook and FY 24 long term budget outlook.

Commissioners brought forth questions regarding the possibility of consolidating the City's two fire stations as a way to reduce expenditures and increase efficiencies.

At 11:00 Commissioner Ottaway moved to recess for lunch, seconded by Commissioner Smith and Carried Unanimously.

At 12:30, the Mayor called the meeting to order. The afternoon session included presentations from the executive directors of the Downtown Development Authority and the Peter White Public Library. Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins led a discussion about the Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The presentation continued with conversations surrounding the Special Revenue Funds, which includes 13 specific funds. Questions were clarified by staff regarding the specific road maintenance revenue fund related to bond payoffs and College Avenue reconstruction. The Commission and staff dove deeper into discussion about the Lakeview Arena Special Revenue Fund. There was a general agreement that future conversations and action surrounding Lakeview Arena are needed in order to best serve the community while reducing the need for a subsidy from the General Fund to sustain the facility.

The Enterprise Funds and Capital Outlay were the final topic areas presented.

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

There was no public comment.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Ottaway thanked staff for the work that went into the budget and emphasized the importance of the community having the opportunity to see and understand the City's budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis showed her appreciation to staff for providing the FY 24 long term budget outlook and recognized improvements from previous year budgets.

Commissioner Smith thanked staff for presenting a balanced budget and taking so much into consideration. She reflected on previously budget years and highlighted specific future conversation topics- Lakeview Area/recreational millage, public safety millage/fire stations, income tax, and Third Street TIF.

Commissioner Hanley showed appreciation toward staff.

Commissioner Larson stated the work staff put into the budget shows the deep commitment the City has to the community.

Mayor Mayer echoed the sentiment of commissioners and also thanked department heads for their efforts. He highlighted the optimism that is felt regarding this year's budget and the future.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs spoke on the effort put forth by department heads and staff to collaborate and get through the budget with creative ideas and acknowledged the pride staff have in their budget and work.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Rachel Quayle, Deputy 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.