



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, December 13, 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 Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

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

Colleen Roberts spoke about panhandlers in the City of Marquette and about options for dealing with this issue.

Darlene Allen, president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, spoke about the importance of voting rights and ballot access and about the possible impacts of legislative proposals.

Priscilla Burnham, representing the LWV, echoed the comments of Darlene Allen and praised the proposed recommendations from the Michigan Secretary of State. She said the LWV had discussed these recommendations with local clerks, and highlighted the topics these clerks most solidly supported.

Robert Kulisheck spoke in support of the resolution on tonight's agenda. He said the LWV is a nonpartisan group and that free and fair elections benefit everyone.

Presentation(s)

1. Charter Spectrum - Police K9 Unit, by Police Chief Blake Rieboldt

Representatives from Charter Spectrum were on-hand to present a donation to the Marquette Police Department's Police K9 Unit. Those present discussed the impacts of the good work being done by the City Police Department and highlighted the continuing partnership with Charter Spectrum.

Police Chief Blake Rieboldt then received a \$2,500 check from the company.

2. Public Art Commission, by Emily Lanctot

Emily Lanctot gave an update on the efforts of the City's Public Art Commission. Recent activities focused on signage and branding, including a planned rollout of Marquette Compass, an online art directory debuting in the coming months.

Projects - completed, in-process and planned - include Words to Live and Bike By, Queen City Courts, Creative Parks, Prismatica and the Cultural Trail and Indigenous Art.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Lanctot and praised some of the recent work, highlighting ways that public art can have broader beneficial impacts on a community.

Commissioner Stonehouse said that he hoped to soon see movement toward completing the cultural trail project, which is important.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jenn Hill and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the November 29, 2021 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the minutes of the November 29, 2021 Commission work session

3.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$651,870.77

3.d. Request for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 903 W. Ridge Street

3.e. Service Credit Purchase - Roll Call Vote

3.f. Technology Services Fee Schedule Adjustment

New Business

4. Protecting Democracy and Promoting Ballot Access Resolution - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the Protecting Democracy and Promoting Ballot Access Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Public Works and Utilities Labor Agreement

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the Public Works and Utilities Employees' Labor Agreement effective October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement, 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.

Darlene Allen thanked the Commission for approving the resolution, and for the positive comments.

Susan Holliday spoke about panhandlers, highlighting programs that she has seen in place in other cities, including Durham, North Carolina.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer said this had been a productive meeting, and he thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioner Hill said she is grateful to be able to have these public conversations and that she is looking forward to being involved in some major city planning discussions over the coming year.

Commissioner Stonehouse said this was a beneficial meeting and some good things had been accomplished.

Commissioner Bonsall reiterated his support for the voting resolution adopted tonight and thanked everyone for coming out. He discussed the challenge of snow removal, as well as issues with the current waste collection and recycling system. He said he doesn't understand why the issues still persist.

Commissioner Davis talked about the recent snowfall, which presented challenges for the public and for City staff handling the cleanup. She discussed plowing priorities.

Commissioner Hanley said this has been a good meeting, and she said she thought the Hemlock project, discussed in tonight's previous work session, was promising.

Mayor Smith reminded viewers that the Commission's next meeting (and the final meeting of the year) is on December 20, just one week from tonight.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs explained that the City's glass recycling program would be changing as we move into 2022. Moving forward, glass recycling will be available via drop-off containers at the Waste Management transfer station and at the City's Municipal Service Center - there will no longer be curbside glass collection. Ms. Kovacs also gave a brief overview of how the City handles snowplowing decisions. In summary, the plow schedule is ultimately impacted by the timing and type of snowfall, as well as a need to clear main city thoroughfares prior to moving to less-traveled roads. Finally, she said that the City's Finance Department has new hours, and will no longer be open to walk-in traffic after 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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