



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Tuesday, October 11, 2022
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Bonsall, Davis, Hill, Mayer, Smith, Stonehouse
Absent: Hanley

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the agenda, with an amendment to remove Item 8 - DPW and Utilities Labor Union Wages - and renumber the subsequent items, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Travis Gerhart, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-24

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

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

Ryan Stock, Molly Miller, Marley Wolff, Piper Guest and Casey Stevens asked the City Commission to undertake a program of fossil fuel divestment, citing the City's climate Resolution approved last year.

Matt Luttenberger talked about solar panel utilization and asked the Commission to fix Norwood Avenue.

Public Hearing(s)

2. Request to Rezone Parcel of NMU Owned Property - Roll Call Vote

Jim Thams, representing NMU, said he is available to answer questions on this

item if needed. No other members of the public were looking to offer comments during the hearing.

Commissioner Jenn Hill moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance 715, rezoning the 1.1-acre NMU parcel as Medium Density Residential in accordance with Section 54.1405 of the Land Development Code, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

3. Request to Rezone 221 and 225 W. Park Street - Roll Call Vote

Applicant Michele Butler spoke, highlighting parking issues and talking about the best way to move forward for the neighborhood.

Jeremy Hansen, a nearby property owner and former DDA member, said he thought this request was reasonable and benefited the neighborhood. To remove the existing parking areas would change the nature of the block, he said.

Jeff Kallery spoke in opposition to the rezoning request.

Vango's co-owner Robert Caron spoke in favor of the rezoning request.

Jamie Strand owns a nearby business and talked about parking issues along Third Street.

Andrea Forsberg owns a nearby business and spoke about issues with parking and snow removal.

Following the public hearing, Commissioner Sally Davis made a motion to approve Ordinance 716, rezoning the properties at 221 and 225 West Park Street, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mayer.

Commissioner Davis said the Planning Commission did its job well and made the decision they thought best. However, she said she is making this motion with the neighborhood and community in mind - this area has been used in this manner for years and parking is a real concern along Third Street.

Other commissioners agreed with this sentiment, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Water Ordinance - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance 714, which amends City Code Chapter 48 - Utilities, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

- 5.a. Approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022 regular Commission meeting
- 5.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$8,700,627.59
- 5.c. Biogas Conditioning Skid Media and Testing
- 5.d. CDBG Environmental Review Forms - Roll Call Vote
- 5.e. Co-Generation Maintenance Services
- 5.f. Michigan Arts and Culture Council - Capital Grant Award
- 5.g. Michigan Arts and Culture Council - Grant Award
- 5.h. Fresh Coast Film Festival - Special Event Permit
- 5.i. Proclamation - Arbor Day Recognition 2022

New Business

- 6. Marquette Board of Light and Power – Lease Agreement

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the lease agreement with the Marquette Board of Light and Power for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

- 7. City Hall Labor Union Wages

Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer moved to Approve the City Hall Employees' 2% wage increase effective October 11, 2022, with a one-time payment to each bargaining unit member of \$250, seconded by Commissioner Evan Bonsall and Carried Unanimously.

- 8. Supervisory Labor Union Wages

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the Supervisory Employees' 2% wage increase effective October 11, 2022, with a one-time payment to each bargaining unit member of \$250, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

- 9. Community Master Plan Steering Committee

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve The establishment of a Master Plan Steering Committee for the purpose of community representation and project oversight. The Committee shall be in place from today's date until October 11, 2023. The membership of the Committee shall be those community members on the attached roster, 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 Luttenberger spoke about the terminology used in the master planning process, and about electric power generation.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Stonehouse talked about the terminology around the Master Planning process and said he would be interested to hear an update on the BLP solar panels. He said he is happy to see the BLP taking on these charging stations and spoke about the relationship between the City Commission and BLP.

Commissioner Bonsall said that the group speaking tonight about energy and fossil fuel concerns should consider attempting to start a conversation at the local board of light and power and at the state utility boards. He said the divestment concerns are welcome and he would love to look into it more, but noted that the City's investments, first and foremost, must be viewed as a vehicle to ensure the comfortable retirement of former employees. He said he would like to see a component of the Master Plan focusing on youth voices; primarily on those too young to vote.

Commissioner Davis had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayer said he liked seeing younger people come to meetings and he hopes they stay engaged. He said it should be noted that the City Commission has no ability to direct the pension board's actions, and notes that it is the actual reason to have the board.

Commissioner Hill said tonight's meeting was an example of the importance of local government, and she talked about some large-scale climate action plans and about progress. She spoke of the role of public utilities in other communities.

Mayor Smith thanked the group that spoke during public comment for coming tonight. She acknowledged Indigenous People's Day, which was first recognized in the City of Marquette in 2019, and she read an indigenous land acknowledgment. She encouraged people to vote in the upcoming General Election on November 8, and she said that, although she will continue on the Commission, she will only have one more meeting as mayor.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs gave schedules for brush and leaf collection, upcoming Commission meetings, and her community office hours.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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