



**Meeting Minutes  
City Commission**

**Monday, December 12, 2022  
6:00 PM  
Commission Chambers**

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**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the agenda with the removal of item 4.d. DNR Spark Grant Application from the Consent Agenda to item 5 under New Business and renumber the remaining items sequentially, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

**Announcements**

Mayor Pro Tem Davis announced the next Commission meeting will be held on December 19 instead of the last Monday of the month.

**Boards and Committees**

**1. Appointment(s)**

George Patrick, Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, for an unexpired term ending 06-01-25

Kevin Clegg, Planning Commission, for an unexpired term ending 02-15-23 and term ending 02-15-26

Margaret Rayner, Planning Commission, for an unexpired term ending 02-15-25

Nathan Williams, Planning Commission appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals, for an unexpired term ending 02-15-23 and term ending 02-15-24

Nina van den Ende, Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 04-01-24

Hannah Milkie, Public Art Commission for an unexpired term ending 02-26-25

Lance Larson, Public Art Commission, for an unexpired term ending 02-26-24

Richard Johnson, Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee, for an unexpired term ending 05-30-23

Barbara Owdziej, Marquette County Transit Authority, for a term ending 12-31-25

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the appointments 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.**

James Gallant spoke on the MARESA Community Wellness Task Force.

Deanne Johnson, on behalf of Marquette County Habitat for Humanity, requested support from the Commission on the proposed Spring Street housing development. She gave a brief overview of Habitat for Humanity and the way it functions within the community. She explained how the proposed development could impact the city.

Jermev Ottaway stated he was in attendance to support the DDA director with her presentation and as a DDA Board member he is making himself available for questions. He also acknowledged his support for the property sale on Spring Street. His public comment concluded by informing the community of his application to fill the Commission's vacant seat. He welcomed questions from the public.

Margaret Brumm brought her concerns to the Commissions on the potential dangers of the viewing window on the pier during the winter. She spoke on aspects of the DNR Spark Grant and encouraged the Habitat for Humanity development on Spring Street. She brought attention to graffiti on a project development sign located on Lakeshore Blvd.

Matt Luttenberger brought forth his concern on the process used to fill a Commission vacancy.

Pete Frazier showed support for the Spring Street development. He also spoke on his application for the Commission's vacant seat.

Lynn Swadley, Angela Rayhorn, Tom Rulseh, and Antonio Adan shared their support for the potential land purchase and affordable housing development by the Marquette County Habitat for Humanity.

**Presentation(s)**

**2. Downtown Development Authority, by Executive Director Tara Laase-McKinney**

Tara Laase-McKinney, DDA Executive Director provided a high-level overview of the DDA's mission and goals. She gave a breakdown of fiscal year 2022 revenue and expenditures, and described facets of the DDA including, maintenance, facade improvement grants, the DDA parking system, and farmers' market. The presentation was concluded with 2023 Projections.

The presentation was then opened to the Commission for discussion.

**Public Hearing(s)**

**3. Rezoning Parcel of NMU Owned Property at 1000 Wright Street - Roll Call Vote**

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve to adopt ordinance 717, rezoning the .22-acre parcel as Civic in accordance with Section 54.1405 of the Land Development Code, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

#### **4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote**

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

**4.a.** Approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022 regular Commission meeting

**4.b.** Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,336,984.93

**4.c.** Blight Self Certification

**4.d.** Publication and Communication Ordinance Review

**4.e.** Marquette Figure Skating Club - Storage Lease Agreement

**4.f.** Marquette Junior Hockey Corporation - Concession Lease Agreement

**4.g.** Schedule Public Hearing- Marquette Township PA 425 Agreement

**4.h.** Noquemanon Ski Marathon Trail Access Permit

**4.i.** Superior Watershed Partnership - Lease

**4.j.** Xerox Lease Renewal

#### **New Business**

#### **5. DNR Spark Grant Application - Roll Call Vote**

Commissioner Hanley moved to Approve the resolution authorizing the City's application for the DNR Spark Grant, and authorize the City Clerk to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Stonehouse.

Discussion ensued, with the City Manager providing more detail on the rapid pace of this grant and the reasons why this specific project was selected as a best fit for the grant.

City staff followed up with detail on the unique location and some aspects of the project which plan to be included.

Commission discussion continued with additional questions and comments. Commissioner Stonehouse stated this grant application is a great example of the City being prepared with projects in place and ready to act on funding opportunities when they arise. His comment was followed up by Commissioner Bonsall with several questions.

Commissioner Bonsall asked if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

had the opportunity to review the grant and for an explanation of the location to be utilized as a trailhead, opposed to the Marquette Commons. Staff responded that PRAB would be reviewing it at their meeting tonight, as it was their first opportunity to do so. Staff also explained the diversity of the Marquette Commons with numerous events and the difficulty to find parking due to the busyness of the area, identifying the Father Marquette Park, cultural trail and LSCP building as the best location for the downtown trailhead. Staff confirmed no other projects have been identified that would fit within the criteria or budget of the grant.

The motion carried unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**6. Police Labor Union Wages**

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the Marquette Professional Police Association's 3% wage increase effective October 1, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

**7. Notice of Intent Resolution - Fiscal Year 2023 Solids Handling Improvement CWSRF Bonds - Roll Call Vote**

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve a notice of intent resolution to start the process of issuing additional Clean Water State Revolving Fund Bonds for a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,800,000 for the solids handling improvement project, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**8. Request to Purchase City-owned Property - 600 W. Spring Street - Roll Call Vote**

Commissioner Bonsall moved to authorize the city manager to negotiate the sale of parcel 0240012, subject to the value of the parcel being determined in writing - at the cost of the purchaser - by a State Certified or licensed real estate appraiser, seconded by Commissioner Hanley.

Commissioner Stonehouse questioned the structure of the motion, with clarification given by the City Attorney.

Commissioner Stonehouse then moved to amend the motion to read: Adopt the resolution of Intent to Sell, and authorize the City Manager to negotiate terms for the potential sale of the property. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion to amend and it carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion with Commissioners indicating support for the project.

The main motion, to Adopt the resolution of Intent to Sell, and authorize the City Manager to negotiate terms for the potential sale of the property, carried unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please**

**state your name and physical address when making public comments.**

James Gallant spoke on Roberts Rules of Order and Board and Committee appointments.

Deanne Johnson thanked the Commission for their support on the Habitat for Humanity affordable housing project and looks forward to working with the City.

Tom Relseh showed appreciation to the City for recognizing the work of the Police Department.

Matt Luttenberger followed up his first public comment regarding filling the Commission vacancy and the piers. He requested maps be provided as visuals during meetings to help provide additional context on the topics being discussed.

Margaret Brumm spoke on the attendance of the Commissioners.

**Comments from the Commission**

**Commissioner Hanley** addressed public comment regarding Commissioners' attendance. She also brought attention to the importance of the appointment of the Commission vacancy and encouraged the public to reach out to her and share their opinion on the applicants.

**Commissioner Smith** thanked Mayor Pro Tem Davis for conducting the meeting. She thanked the Department of Public Works employees ahead of the winter weather to come. She acknowledged positive feedback on recycling. She brought awareness to the wide array of things that are done in city government, stating tonight's meeting is a great example of that.

**Commissioner Stonehouse** echoed Commissioner Smith's comment. He also commented on the timeline of addressing affordable housing and the importance of ensuring we have all the tools necessary before moving forward.

**Commissioner Bonsall** thanked Mayor Pro Tem Davis for conducting the meeting on short notice of the mayor's absence. He showed enthusiasm for the Commission's support with the Spring Street development of eight affordable houses and the continued need for housing in our community.

**Mayor Pro Tem Davis** thanked the city staff working through the police union wage negotiations and showed her excitement for the Habitat for Humanity property.

**Comments from the City Manager**

City Manager Karen Kovacs provided a photo which illustrated the difference between a new and used plow blade and mentioned the increase in prices for steel and material. She reminded the community to give plow drivers space as they work through the heavy snow which is expected to come this week. She thanked staff on the wonderful job decorating a plow truck for the City's holiday parade. She closed with a reminder of her next community office hours.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51.

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**Sally Davis, Mayor Pro Tem**

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**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](mailto:estemen@marquettemi.gov).*