



**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, February 13, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Mayer announced that he is recommending City Fire Chief Ian Davis be appointed as the City's representative to the County Dispatch Policy Board. He also noted that the City will be hosting an Open House related to the City Master Plan process this week, scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. on February 15.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Carole Touchinski, Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 04-01-23 and a subsequent term ending 04-01-26
Brooke Tharp, Marquette Housing Commission for an unexpired term ending 06-09-24

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the appointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

2. Reappointment(s)

Kristina Hill, Board of Zoning Appeals, for a term ending 02-15-26
Jaclyn Stark, Marquette Housing Commission for a term ending 02-12-28
Sarah Mittlefehldt, Planning Commission for a term ending 02-15-26

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the reappointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

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

Realtor Terry Huffman read a letter from his clients who are hoping to purchase the City-owned property listed on tonight's agenda in order to construct a hotel. Margaret Brumm spoke in support of the letter of support for the Janzen House, and praised the organization.

Presentation(s)

3. Peter White Public Library Board, by Library Director Andrea Ingmire

Peter White Public Library Director Andrea Ingmire spoke about the myriad projects and efforts organized by the library, and also shared statistics related to the library's programming.

Commissioners thanked Ingmire for the presentation and praised the library's successful programming and on its broad impact in the community.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jermey Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the January 30, 2023 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$ 1,283,231.58

4.c. City Manager and City Attorney Compensation Subcommittee

4.d. Letter of Support - Janzen House

4.e. Marquette American Legion Baseball Non-Profit Status - Roll Call Vote

4.f. Marquette Area Public Schools - Ice Contract

4.g. Ordinance 718 - Marihuana Establishment Licensing - Roll Call Vote

4.h. Superior Watershed Partnership– Lease Agreement

4.i. United States Geological Survey - Stream Gage Operating Contract

4.j. U.P. Superior Fastpitch Softball Non-Profit Status - Roll Call Vote

New Business

5. Requests to Purchase City-owned Property - 601 South Lakeshore Boulevard

Commissioner Stonehouse moved to affirm an interest in selling the property for tax creation and to direct the City Manager to further evaluate proposals and present a recommendation to the City Commission. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stonehouse said the Commission doesn't need to wait to make this decision until after the Community Master Plan process is completed, and he noted that the Commission will ultimately need to vote to approve any sale. He said tax base is pivotal in a community where so much of the property is currently nontaxable.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she thinks the public is nervous about any development near the lake and that any sale should be done carefully. She voiced concerns about building height and traffic patterns and stated a hope that there would remain a buffer along the bike path.

Commissioners discussed the merits of development, the need for an increased tax base and the timeline for a staff evaluation and they considered whether the scope of this evaluation should be expanded. Commissioner Smith voiced an intention to vote against the motion, stating that it would be better to wait for the master planning process to conclude, but also said she believes the public would not be in favor of development at that location.

Commissioner Larson then moved to amend the original motion to direct the manager to also consider other opportunities for the property, including a general RFP process. Commissioner Ottaway seconded the motion, which carried 4-2, with Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Commissioner Smith voting against it.

The commission then voted on the now-amended motion: To affirm an interest in selling the property for tax creation and to direct the City Manager to further evaluate proposals, as well as consider other opportunities for the property, including a general RFP process, and to present a recommendation to the City Commission. This motion carried 5-1, with Commissioner Smith voting against it.

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

There were no public comments at this point.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Ottaway said he hopes people come downtown for the UP200 this weekend and he hopes for better weather for the race.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she has concern for the parcel discussed tonight because it fronts both the business district and a more rustic portion of the bike path. She hopes those two portions of the parcel remain distinct and separate in the future.

Commissioner Smith said the NTN had a piece of grooming equipment break down recently, and the group could use funding to help replace it.

Commissioner Stonehouse talked about the history of the Founders Landing area and said context and history is important. He said there will be a cruise ship stopping in Marquette again this summer.

Commissioner Larson said he was happy with his first meeting, and he was hoping the City would get as much information as possible to aid in the decision regarding the property discussed tonight.

Mayor Mayer said it's good to see new commissioners joining in on these discussions. He said there is no harm in exploring our options at the property talked about tonight. He said he will be joining City Police Chief Grim for his Coffee with a Cop this month.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said the City will be closed on Monday Feb. 20, and shared information about the Community Master Planning events coming up this week.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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