



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, March 13, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Mayer had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Jamie Glenn, Parks and Receptions Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending 01-29-24

Jacqueline Wagner, Public Art Commission for an unexpired term ending 02-26-26

Sean Hobbins, Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending 12-31-23

James Compton, Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending 02-01-26

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the appointments as written, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway 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 brought attention to 601 S. Lakeshore Blvd. stating this intersection is the first intersection in the city of Marquette as people come into the city from the south. He believes it's important to make it inviting and would make a great welcome center and park.

Angela Rayhorn spoke on pedestrian safety in our community.

Margaret Brumm requested that the city institutes March 13 as a day of remembrance.

This marks the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic and our community shutting down. She acknowledged the importance of remembering how much the pandemic impacted everyone.

Presentation(s)

2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, by Chair Amanda Gobert

Amanda Gobert, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, presented to the Commission on the purpose, successes and future goals of the board.

She highlighted the City's park system, indicating there are approximately 21 parks, 15 athletic fields and a number of trail networks. She also noted the number of different Capital improvement projects the board has been involved with.

Following her presentation, questions and comments were opened up to the Commission. There was a general sense of gratitude for the work the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does and a shared appreciate for the vast number of parks and outdoor recreation options in our community.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jermy Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,372,842.07

3.c. Co-generation Overhaul Maintenance Agreement

3.d. Construction Materials Testing Services for 2023 City Construction Projects

3.e. KBIC Funding for the U.P. Children's Museum

3.f. Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, SHIFT Grant Application

3.g. Ordinance 702 - Authorized Officials

3.h. Ordinance 719 - Business Licensing - Roll Call Vote

3.i. Ordinance 721 - Black Rock Crossing Tax Exemption

3.j. Resolution Supporting SB 19 and SB 20 - Roll Call Vote

3.k. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the U.P. Children's Museum

3.I. Wastewater By-Pass Pump

New Business

4. Former Marquette General Hospital Redevelopment Reimbursement Agreement

Commissioner Larson moved to Approve the Reimbursement Agreement with the Northern Michigan University Foundation, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Stonehouse.

Commissioner Larson stated this is an important next step in the redevelopment of the property. Commissioner Stonehouse agreed. Commissioner Smith added this has been going on for quite some time and thanked Assistant City Manager for his efforts in moving the project forward.

The Mayor asked for clarification of the next steps by the City Manager. City Manager Kovacs stated following approval of the reimbursement agreement the City Commission will then need to approve a development agreement before any work can be done.

Following the Commission's comments and additional information provided by the City Manager the Commission voted on the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Resolution of Intent to Sell City Property, Cliffs-Dow - Roll Call Vote

City Manager Kovas reiterated the support by Veridea Group and that they are willing to step aside in order for the City to explore this opportunity for the community.

Commissioner Stonehouse moved to suspend negotiations with Veridea Group and adopt the attached Resolution of Intent to Sell the subject property to the State of Michigan. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Stonehouse stated that Veridea Group has been a great partner to the City on a number of projects and both parties recognize the importance of pursuing this opportunity. Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Stonehouse and believes this is an opportunity to keep the veterans home local. She also pointed out the partnership opportunity with the State of Michigan as they work through environmental and funding concerns.

There was consensus by the Commission to move forward with negotiation with the State as it is a unique opportunity and a positive first step. There was a general sense of optimism.

Following the brief discussion the Commission voted on the motion, which carried unanimously by a Roll Call Vote.

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

Matt Luttenberger acknowledged the Cliffs Dow site and the opportunity for the DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans and the residents it serves. Additionally, he spoke on the different types of recreation in the community and encouraged Parks and Recreation to open a skating facility as a tourist mechanism and provide additional activity for City residents.

Craig Patterson gave a brief overview of the Black Rocks Crossing development and thanked the Commission for their consideration.

Margaret Brumm spoke on the generational gap in knowledge of the history of the Cliffs Dow site and brought up several other points regarding that property.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Smith brought clarification to public comment about the Black Rocks Crossing development, reminding the public this was the first of two reads on the item.

Commissioner Stonehouse highlighted the fact the City has 2,810 acres of public parks. He reminded the community of the fiscal responsibility the City has, with the sole income being property taxes. All of which needs to be kept in mind when considering the City's excess property, such as 601 S. Lakeshore Blvd.

Commissioner Hanley spoke about the Resolution Supporting SB 19 and SB 20. She also thanked the community for bringing forth their concerns regarding 601 S. Lakeshore Blvd. and encourages them to continue to do so.

Commissioner Larson spoke on a number of consent agenda items - commending the Arts and Culture committee for moving forward with the native arts project along the cultural trail, Black Rock Crossing development which will provide housing for individuals who earn below 80% of the median income in our community, and echoed Commissioner Hanley on SB 19 and SB 20, the dark store tax.

Commissioner Ottaway showed support of the idea to recognize March 13 as COVID19 pandemic Remembrance Day. He also addressed the public comment about pedestrian safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis thanked Ms. Brumm for her idea to remember the pandemic on March 13 and all the immediate changes that occurred and stated it was significant for our community, nation, and world. She also touched on pedestrian safety. She said it has been talked about in the Master Planning process and encouraged people for their input. She thanked Craig Patterson for traveling to support the Black Rock Crossing development.

Mayor Mayer spoke on SB 19 and SB 20, acknowledging the neighboring communities for taking a stand and Senator McBroom for taking leadership on something that can be so crippling to the Upper Peninsula.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager, Karen Kovacs announced the Pigs and Heat Charity Hockey event, which raises funds to support local families who lost their home to fire. Funds are used in both city and township.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Rachel Quayle, Deputy City Clerk

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