



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

**Monday, August 28, 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, with the addition of a new business item to consider a resolution establishing a polling location for early voting, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Mayer had no announcements.

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

Margaret Brumm said she has invited the students from the NMU course she is teaching, an introduction to business law class. She said her goal is for them to gain a better understanding of the structure of local government.
Nine students from Ms. Brumm's class then spoke to the Commission. Some asked questions about the Commissioners and about City services and decisions.

Presentation(s)

1. Board of Zoning Appeals, by Chair Heather Dombrowski

Heather Dombrowski presented the annual update on behalf of the City's Board of Zoning Appeals. She pointed out the fact that the three vacant seats cause an issue, as they make it more likely that the board is unable to make a quorum for a meeting, which can be very inconveniencing to residents with issues pending before the board.

Ms. Dombrowski talked about the BZA's roles and responsibilities and reviewed a summary of the board's 2022 activity, as well as goals for the coming year. She talked about how to possibly incentivize people to join the board, mentioning the possibility of a stipend, and of reaching out to the public through service organizations and the university.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Dombrowski for the presentation, and talked a bit about how to best inform the public about the openings on the BZA.

2. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jermei Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

2.a. Approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 special Commission meeting

2.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,199,460.38

2.c. Grant of License for American Legion Parking

2.d. KBIC Funding for the YMCA

2.e. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the YMCA

New Business

3. Purchase of Used Fire Truck

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the emergency purchase of a 2001 Pierce Enforcer pumper truck from the Mukwonago Fire Department through the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction in the amount not to exceed \$38,695.00, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

4. Resolution to Establish a Polling Location for Early Voting - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jennifer Smith moved to Approve the resolution establishing the Peter White Public Library as a City of Marquette polling location, and an Early Voting Precinct for all registered voters of the City of Marquette, seconded by Commissioner Jermei Ottaway and 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.

Margaret Brumm spoke about the possible presence of off-leash animals at the City's south beach, and about her perceived need for a speed limit on trails.

Angela Rayhorn spoke about a recent article she read about the rise of pedestrians deaths in the country. She talked about the importance of making Marquette as safe as possible for pedestrians.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Davis welcomed the NMU students that attended tonight. She spoke about her relationship with the university, as both a student and employee. She urged the students to stay involved and to make sure they are registered to vote. She also highlighted the role of a City Commissioner and said that some of the student questions would be better directed to staff.

Commissioner Smith talked about the importance of NMU to the community. She shared information about how the Commission agenda is set each week.

Commissioner Stonehouse said this was a very short and quick agenda. He said the

U.P. Fall Beer Festival is coming up, and he talked about the impact of that event. He asked Police Chief Ryan Grim if he could explain the law related to crosswalks.

Chief Grim said the traffic regulations require that a vehicle must yield to a pedestrian in the crosswalk.

Commissioner Hanley thanked the students for coming and spoke about her history with the university. She said the City has several committees across various subjects and she suggested the NMU students consider getting involved. She said that local schools are all back in session beginning next week and she urged people to respect school buses.

Commissioner Larson talked about his history with both the university and the City, and he said it is very important for students to get involved. He also said that he would like the City Commission to consider a stipend for the BZA in future years.

Commissioner Ottaway spoke about his history with the university. He also recommended that the students consider getting more involved in the workings of City government. He talked about the success of Harbor Fest.

Mayor Mayer talked about his history with NMU.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said that her next Community Office hours session is scheduled for September 13, and she said the format provides an inviting and relaxed setting for people to come and ask questions or share concerns. She then responded to student questions about water quality and trash collection. She said the university is an incredible asset to the community.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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