



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, November 27, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Davis announced the return of the holiday laser light show, sponsored by Travel Marquette and the upcoming holiday parade.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Emily Tobin-Lavoy, Public Art Commission for an unexpired term ending 2-26-25
Jon Nebel, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as the Marquette Junior Hockey Representative for an unexpired term ending 1-29-25
Recommend Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Transit Authority, for a term ending 12-31-26
Recommend Fire Chief Ian Davis as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Central Dispatch Policy Board, for a term ending 12-31-26

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanley moved to appoint Emily Tobin-LaVoy, Public Art Commission for an unexpired term ending 2-26-25, Jon Nebel, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as the Marquette Junior Hockey Representative for an unexpired term ending 1-29-25 and recommend Assistant City Manager Sean Hobbins as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Transit Authority, for a term ending 12-31-26 and recommend Fire Chief Ian Davis as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Central Dispatch Policy Board, for a term ending 12-31-26, seconded by Commissioner Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessica Hanley thanked staff and the community members for stepping up to fill these vacancies.

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

Sue Holliday -representing the League of Women Voters, spoke on their Hooked-on Voting Program. She explained the goal is to encourage children of all ages to become engaged in the democratic process by conducting a mock election with the children, giving them the opportunity to vote on local topics.

Andy Tankka addressed the request to use City property for a retaining wall.

Steve Mattson showed support for the request to use City property on Jenny Lane and provided history of the subdivision.

Karen Mattson also indicated support of her neighbor's request to use City property and provided comparison of retaining walls in residential areas within the city.

William Cooke shared support of Andy Tankka.

Margaret Brumm spoke on three items. She requested that agendas for all City's boards and committees meetings be posted in a similar manner as the City Commission agendas. She also requested the City Commission and PIPAC schedule a joint meeting in the early quarter of 2024 to address the walking hours. Lastly, she requested an explanation of the required budget adjustment for the DPW labor agreement.

Presentation(s)

2. Planning Commission, by Chair Sarah Mittlefehldt

Sarah Mittlefehldt gave a broad overview of the responsibilities and role of the Planning Commission. She provided history of the Planning Commission, stating the City's Planning Commission was established in 1947. She highlighted the diversity of the current board members and provided a list of cases and actions that took place in 2023 proceedings. She then concluded with a look into 2024 and future years, which will include the Community Master Plan update, addressing housing affordability and availability, mobility including transit, sidewalks and bike routes. She invited the City Commission to collaborate further with the Planning Commission.

The presentation was opened up to the Commission for comments. Commissioner comments embodied a general sense of appreciation and thanks for the difficult work that is done by the Planning Commission.

3. Lake Superior Community Partnership, by CEO Christopher Germain

Christopher Germain, CEO of the LSCP provided an update on the economic development organization. He highlighted the large network and partnerships throughout the area.

He discussed the successes in 2022 which included working with over 500 clients.

Mr. Germain provided an overview on a variety of priorities for 2023. Some of the priorities include business development, community development, housing, childcare, outdoor recreation, and air service.

Looking into 2024 the LSCP intends to implement the Small Business Support Hub and Regional Housing Plan, develop a housing tracker for Marquette County and continue to work on a number of other critical issues, Mr. Germain stated.

Following his presentation, the Commission commented on the important role the LSCP plays in fostering success in our community. They thanked Mr. Germain for his leadership and the work him and his staff are doing and recognized the increased capacity of the organization.

Public Hearing(s)

4. Rezoning of 1025 Osprey Court - Roll Call Vote

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve ordinance 724 and rezone 1025 Osprey Court from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Multiple Family Residential district, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Rezoning of 905 N. Lakeshore Blvd. - Roll Call Vote

During the public comment portion of the public hearing, Margaret Brumm questioned the Commission's ability to ensure a hotel does not get built on the property.

Commissioner Larson moved to approve ordinance 725 and rezone 905 N. Lakeshore Blvd. from a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Mixed-Use (M-U) district, seconded by Commissioner Schloegel, and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jermeay Ottaway moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

- 6.a. Approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 regular Commission meeting
- 6.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$3,037,702.79
- 6.c. Fuel Purchasing
- 6.d. Master Agreement to Purchase Services (In-Home Services)
- 6.e. Plowing for Pizza Agreement
- 6.f. Senior Services - Master Agreement to Purchase Services
- 6.g. Utilization of State Bid for Annual Salt Purchase

New Business

7. DPW Labor Agreement

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the Department of Public Works and Utilities Employees' Agreement extension effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

8. Request for License to Use City Property for Retaining Wall on Jenny Lane

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessica Hanley moved to approve the license request and direct the city attorney to draft the license and a memorandum or other document to be recorded at the Register of Deeds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mayer.

Commissioner Ottaway requested privileged comment by the resident seeking the license.

Discussion ensued with comments from Mr. Tankka, City staff, and the Commission. Clarification was given on the measurements of the right-of-way and the process for seeking a license. There was discussion of the possibility of setting a precedence.

Following discussion, the Commission took a vote by roll call. The motion failed 2-5, with Commissioner Smith and Mayor Pro-Tem Hanley voting in favor.

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Margaret Brumm reminded everyone of the monthly BLP meeting which will take place November 28. She also invited the Commission to interact with her class at NMU.

William Cooke showed his disappointment for the decision made regarding the request to use City property.

Matt Luttenberger stated a MAPS board meeting was being conducted tonight which discussed the high school's new nickname and rebranding; he believes this really is a rebranding of the entire community. He thanked the Commission for his previous concern being addressed, thanking them for the improved road condition on Norwood Ave.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Larson recognized the tough conversation that was had during the meeting and briefly explained his reasonings for how he voted.

Commissioner Mayer had no comment.

Commissioner Ottaway also explained his reasons for voting the way he did, with his main concern being the order of operations of the request, which could set a precedence in the future. He also highlighted the Fire Department, commending them for their recent involvement with a housefire.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanley had no comment.

Commissioner Schloegel showed appreciation for the amount of engagement that took place during a difficult agenda item. He hoped everyone takes advantage of all the upcoming holiday events happening in our community and also reminded everyone to shop local.

Commissioner Smith thanked the League of Women Voters for attending the meeting and their involvement with the youth in the community. She highlighted the opportunity she had to be involved with the Tom Baldini Soap Box challenge, which also engages youth in the area -giving them the opportunity to speak on difficult topics. She also reminded everyone to stay safe during the hunting season by wearing bright colors and avoid going for a hike or bike ride during dawn or dusk.

Mayor Davis thanked the Commission for giving so much thought and effort on the issue they were presented with, acknowledging their job to represent the citizens and set the rules and regulations for the good of the entire community.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Workers Departments for working through the holiday and ensuring our city continues to run smoothly.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Sally Davis, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, 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.