



**Meeting Minutes  
City Commission**

**Monday, April 8, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Commission Chambers**

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

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Announcements**

Mayor Davis highlighted current openings on the City's volunteer boards and committees, and noted that two City Commission seats would be on the ballot in 2024. She reminded residents that the filing deadline for City Commission seats is April 23.

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

Matt Luttenberger spoke about the state of Norwood Avenue and requested that the City or the university take action to improve that street. He also spoke about citizen use of Lakeview Arena.

Cameron Smith spoke about the need to work together more broadly to overcome communication barriers. He shared the story of a woman with autism, who has been able to use existing technologies to communicate with an effectiveness that was not thought possible, and said communities should focus on making technology and services available to all.

**Presentation(s)**

**1. Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee, by Gerald Kujawa**

Gerald Kujawa offered an update on the last year of meetings from the Traffic and Parking Committee. He spoke about resident comments and traffic-related changes implemented this year, and shared information about Complete Streets. He said that the board had discussed an interest in having the name changed to reflect a focus on Complete Streets and broader transportation planning. Commissioners thanked Kujawa and the rest of the board for their efforts, and for dealing with the public concern that come their way.

2. Bicycle Friendly Community Award Designation - Marquette, by City Planner Dave Stensaas

Planner David Stensaas presented the city's recent designation as a silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists - Marquette is one of five communities recognized in the state with a silver- or gold-level designation.

Stensaas spoke about some of the things that the City has done in recent years to become a more bike- and pedestrian-friendly community. He noted that the LAB designation came with a report card explaining how to improve further, and said the report card will be posted online.

**Public Hearing(s)**

3. Rezoning of 756 W. Washington Street - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance 728, rezoning 756 W. Washington Street from General Commercial to a Mixed-Use district, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

4. **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Jermey Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 Commission work session

4.b. Approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024 regular Commission meeting

4.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$603,963.89

4.d. Schedule Public Hearing - Rezoning of 600 W. Spring Street

**New Business**

5. Short-term Rental Resolution- Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the resolution supporting HB 5438, and authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Commissioner Jermey 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.**

Barb Owdziej advocated for the Strong Towns approach to planning, and emphasized a desire for productive and safe streets that accommodate various forms of transportation. She recommended related resources to help understand how streets can be made more inclusive.

Matt Luttenberger, speaking about the complete streets discussion, emphasized the need for balanced, well-thought-out planning that accommodates all forms of transportation while ensuring safety and efficiency. He urged the commission to consider these aspects critically and to pursue policies that serve the whole community's needs.

Cameron Smith said the City Commission has a challenging job and he encouraged further support and collaboration within the community, emphasizing a need to share information in an effective and accessible manner. Demetri Kaltsas also endorsed the Strong Towns approach and referenced traffic crash data, suggesting the city could collaborate with NMU in an attempt to decrease vehicle dependency among students.

### **Comments from the Commission**

**Commissioner Schloegel** expressed pride in local sports, specifically Marquette American Legion Post 44 14U Bantam AA hockey team, that competed in New York recently. He said he's looking forward to continuing good weather.

**Commissioner Smith** requested public patience with public works as staff prepares for the summer, despite spring weather conditions that may still fluctuate significantly.

**Commissioner Larson** thanked the presenters and said he would be open to further discussions about supporting complete streets policies and actions in the City.

**Commissioner Mayer** thanked the public for their engagement and comments during the meeting, and he recommended reading the book from Strong Towns, which he said includes insights into municipal government and planning and is accessible, even for those without a deep background in these areas.

**Commissioner Ottaway** expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Festival of the Angry Bear, which seems to mark the start of spring in Marquette.

**Mayor Pro Tem Hanley** had no comments.

**Mayor Davis** talked about complete streets, noting that she had read two books recommended to her by speakers at tonight's meeting. She said she likes the concept of bringing neighborhoods together, but she emphasized the importance of inclusive planning that accommodates all community members, including those who cannot bike or walk. She also paid tribute to Bob Chapman, who passed away recently, but left a lasting impact through his service on various community committees, including most recently on the City's Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee.

### **Comments from the City Manager**

**City Manager Karen Kovacs** also acknowledged Bob Chapman's recent passing and his significant contributions to community parks and recreational planning. She reaffirmed the position of the City's complete streets policy in street reconstructions and capital improvement planning and noted that the City makes decisions with an eye toward promoting safe and inclusive transportation options. She mentioned that the City is always on the lookout for additional funding for both planning and implementation efforts. She reminded everyone about her upcoming community office hours, and said that the Angry Bear, and the salamander crossing means that spring is near.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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**Sally Davis, Mayor**

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