

City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855



**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, December 16, 2024
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to approve the agenda, with Item 3.c - Active Transportation Planning Services relocated to New Business, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Hanley had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Reappointment(s)

Recommend the reappointment of Taylor Klipp as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Transit Authority, for a term ending 12-31-27.

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Approve the recommendation to reappoint Taylor Klipp as the City of Marquette representative on the Marquette County Transit Authority, for a term ending 12-31-27, 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.

There was no public comment at this time.

Presentation(s)

2. Downtown Development Authority, by Executive Director Tara Laase-McKinney

DDA Executive Director Tara Laase-McKinney offered a presentation that included a detailed overview of the Downtown Development Authority's activities during the previous year.

She offered background on the DDA district and the associated tax increment

financing district and discussed the various changes to the boundaries of those districts over the years.

She spoke about the DDA budget, parking management, facade improvement grants, the farmers market and other district events and activities, before highlighting the organization's 2025 goals and objectives.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Laase-McKinney for the presentation, and discussion ensued. Commission conversation touched on new businesses, district boundaries, the cost of parking management, future visions for the farmers market and TIF plans, including discussion about plans to propose a new TIF plan for Commission consideration.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$946,372.64

3.c. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 305 W. Magnetic Street

3.d. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 428 Fisher Street

3.e. State Right-of-Way Permits - Roll Call Vote

New Business

4. Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to Approve the resolution authorizing an additional five years to the three-year Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act Exemption Certificate for 136 West Washington Street, and direct the Mayor and Clerk to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Active Transportation Planning Services

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the contract with Toole Design for Active Transportation Infrastructure planning services, authorize the City Manager or her designee to sign, and approve the use of the remainder of the project budget as contingency if required, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel.

Commissioner Davis noted that she had wanted this to be pulled from the Consent Agenda tonight because she knows there is public interest in this topic, generally, and she asked staff to discuss this opportunity and to explain the next steps.

Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins outlined the project, which will include a conditions analysis, community engagement through surveys, and a two-day in-person event in spring of 2025 to gather stakeholder input. The final product will be an active transportation plan, incorporating best practices and addressing micromobility and safety concerns, for review and potential adoption by the Planning Commission and City Commission.

Following discussion, the Commission voted on the original motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Barb Owdziej expressed concern that the city's planning and discussions tend to over-emphasize parking and automobile infrastructure and said future plans should make the community less friendly for automobiles, and more friendly for other forms of transportation.

Anne White, owner of The Honorable Distillery, thanked the City Commission for their continued support.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioners Mayer and Gottlieb had no comments.

Commissioner Larson highlighted the importance of preserving local history, and said tax mechanisms like tonight's OPRA certificate can be a good way to prioritize that. He emphasized the city's focus on partnerships and community engagement for future planning.

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel encouraged residents to shop locally, tip service workers, and enjoy the holiday season, and he wished Mayor Hanley a happy birthday.

Commissioner Ottaway commended Barb Owdziej's forward-thinking ideas on walkability, and said he was glad to see the OPRA certificate extended.

Commissioner Davis wished everyone happy holidays.

Mayor Hanley shared positive feedback from local business owners, who reached out to support the OPRA extension request for The Honorable Distillery. She said happy holidays and urged everyone to stay safe.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs wished Mayor Hanley a happy birthday. She thanked the public works and facilities staff for their efforts in decorating the Peanuts-themed plow for the holiday parade. She reminded residents of battery recycling options, highlighting proper disposal methods for various types of batteries, and directed residents to Recycle 906 for additional information.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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Marquette, please provide advanced notice to City of Marquette ADA Coordinator Eric Stemen at 906-225-8978 or via email at estemen@marquettemi.gov.