



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

Monday, April 14, 2025

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 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Hanley had no announcements at this point.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Delynn Klein, Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending 2-15-28

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

Several people spoke during public comment to oppose the adoption of Ordinance 25-02 as written.

Those speaking about the proposed ordinance were Chelsie Wilkinson, Rebecca Rucinski, Silas McNeally, Ian Watson, Daisy Rae Nelson, Will Sullivan, Heidi Kirschner, Edward Murray, Tony Boyle, Emilie Rake, Kim Offenbacher, Ryan Redmond, Linsey Giraud, Alex Guindon, Robert Edgcombe, Hailey Salter, Vikash Kumar, Alex Cowles and Elijah Croschere.

Many of the speakers criticized the ordinance as overly vague, and said it could leave enforcement open to broad interpretation. They said shelters like Room at the Inn are regularly at capacity, meaning individuals have limited alternatives and discussed a need for the broader community to pursue solutions, with some highlighting programs from other communities, including Missoula, MT. Several speakers also shared personal experiences of being unhoused, and of being shelter guests and outreach workers.

Additionally, Patrick Markey and Jay Dickinson said they have concerns about Item 7 tonight, the waiver request for a PUD proposal. They said they aren't opposed to the

idea of the development, but have concerns about the scale and design being proposed. They said they feel there should be more active engagement with the residents of the neighborhood.

Michele Thomas said she is available to answer any questions the City Commission may have regarding Agenda Item 7.

2. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

- 2.a.** Approve the minutes of the March 31, 2025 regular Commission meeting
- 2.b.** Approve the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Commission work session
- 2.c.** Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,590,896.13 which excludes \$878.79 in City Commission travel reimbursement, this reimbursement will be New Business items 4-5.
- 2.d.** 2025 Fireworks Permit
- 2.e.** Agreement to use and Occupy Unpatented Great Lakes Bottomlands for Public Purposes
- 2.f.** Architecture Services - Cultural Center and Trailhead Change Order
- 2.g.** BLP Transmission Line Easement
- 2.h.** Construction Materials Testing Services for 2025 City Construction Projects
- 2.i.** Grove Street Booster Station Fiber Connect
- 2.j.** MQTS, Inc. Roller Derby Storage Space Lease Agreement
- 2.k.** Ordinance 25-03: Noxious Weeds
- 2.l.** Ordinance 25-04: Businesses and Business Licensing
- 2.m.** PIDP 2021 – City of Marquette – Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Improving Efficiency – Coastal Resiliency Project
- 2.n.** Proclamation - Workers Memorial Day
- 2.o.** Sidewalk Repair and Replacement & Third Street Coal Bunker Rehabilitation Project
- 2.p.** Street Improvements and Structure Cover Adjustments Project

New Business

- 3.** Ordinance 25-02: Overnight Occupation of Public Property - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Cody Mayer moved to Adopt Ordinance #25-02, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Mayer said he agrees the ordinance is vague. He said he thinks that the intention should be made clearer, or the associated procedures and policies should be included.

Commissioners thanked attendees for their comments tonight and acknowledged the passion in the community. The commission discussed background information and the intention of the proposed ordinance, with several commissioners expressing discomfort with the current wording of the ordinance. There was general consensus that the ordinance should be revised in some capacity.

Commissioner Cody Mayer then moved to postpone consideration of Ordinance 25-02 to the May 27 meeting of the Marquette City Commission and direct City staff to revise the language of the proposed ordinance to more clearly define the ordinance intent. Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel seconded.

There was discussion about what a vote to postpone would mean, and about what Commissioners would hope to see when the item was brought back in May.

Mayor Hanley said she would like to explore options currently being utilized in other communities, including an auto tagging system related to overnight occupation. She also said she would like to see a clear and standardized process for what happens to materials seized from city property.

The Commission then voted on the motion to postpone consideration to the May 27 meeting, with the motion carrying unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Commissioner Larson Travel Reimbursement

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Approve travel reimbursement for Commissioner Larson in the amount of \$139 for the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Passed. The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Larson abstaining from the vote.

5. Mayor Hanley Travel Reimbursement

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to Approve travel reimbursement for Mayor Hanley in the amount of \$739.79 for the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Passed. The motion carried 6-0, with Mayor Hanley abstaining from the vote.

6. Peg Hirvonen Bandshell - Construction Contract Award

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Award the bid and approve the contract with Miron Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$2,084,175, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

7. Waiver Request for Planned Unit Development Proposal on W. Magnetic Street

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Concur with the Planning Commission recommendation and approve the waiver of the minimum PUD size criteria for contiguous land, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

8. Year-Round Off-Leash Dog Recreation Area

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Direct the City Manager to authorize staff time to be dedicated to re-examining all City owned property and working with local partners to identify a suitable location for another dog park that makes the recreation opportunity available year-round, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

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Lesley Williams spoke about the upcoming changes to garbage collection, stating that her house is very old with little room for garbage or recycling carts.

Michele Thomas said the Veridea Group recognizes that whatever they do at the site of the old hospital will impact the community She said they scheduled tonight's information-sharing meeting prior to being informed the waiver request related to their PUD would be on tonight's agenda.

Ian Watson reiterated that his concern with tonight's proposed ordinance is related to the fact that he wants clear future expectations, regarding enforcement.

Tony Boyle thanked the Commission for their actions tonight.

Barb Owdziej thanked talked about the future of Third Street and endorsed designing areas with a clear understanding of their true use. She said she thinks Third Street would benefit from less car traffic.

Patrick Markey says he understands the PUD proposal discussed tonight will still be brought up several times, but is concerned that the waiver approved tonight will allow for the applicant to create a project that is less beneficial to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jay Dickinson said he hopes the parties can move forward together as a community in the redevelopment of the former hospital properties. He said he looks forward to a future dog park, but urges the city to consider other uses of any dog park property, as well as neighboring properties.

Dave Campana spoke on the benefits of municipal water fluoridation.

Chelsie Wilkinson thanked the Commission and said she appreciates their commitment. She said she is looking forward to helping to formulate an amended ordinance.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel said tonight's meeting was a great reflection of the community. He said he agrees that any dog park should clearly take into account all other uses of the property and of neighboring properties and he said the process will be intentionally planned.

Commissioner Mayer thanked the people who came and spoke at tonight's meeting, and urged people to channel their passion and energy and to consider applying for one of the city's volunteer boards or committees. Finally, he said he was recently nominated and appointed to the board of the Michigan Municipal League Foundation.

Commissioner Ottaway said budget season is approaching and talked about the vital nature of the city budgeting process, as well as the struggle presented by the current economic uncertainties.

Commissioner Davis had no comments.

Commissioner Gottlieb shared a story of a resident that reached out recently with a specific issue and said that the resident and the city administration reached a fair compromise. He said it's not possible to make everyone completely happy all of the time and said the city is trying to do the best it can and to be as fair as possible.

Commissioner Larson said he appreciated the robust discussion tonight.

Mayor Hanley said the City Commission needs to hear from every side in order to make informed decisions and thanked everyone for coming. She discussed the upcoming Easter events in the city.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said local elected officials often have a tough job, as they try to balance several varied resident opinions. She discussed season-opening schedules for the city dropoff and collection sites, which have been impacted by the slow approach of spring weather. She said the MML Foundation Board is very important and said it's good to have Commissioner Mayer's City of Marquette representation on there.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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