



## Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, May 12, 2025  
6:00 PM  
Commission Chambers

---

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

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

Absent: Gottlieb

Commissioner Davis moved to excuse Commissioner Gottlieb due to personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Larson and Carried Unanimously

### Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

### Announcements

Mayor Hanley discussed the upcoming bike rodeo, a bike safety event being hosted by the city. She also shared information about a public hearing scheduled during the upcoming Planning Commission meeting, and highlighted the upcoming Ron Katers Garden Week.

### Boards and Committees

#### 1. Appointment(s)

Eric Paupore, Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 5-30-25 and the subsequent term ending 5-30-28

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

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

Lesley Williams talked about the upcoming shift to solid waste carts, sharing concerns regarding difficulties storing and using the carts during the winter. She said she would like the option to pay to deliver her trash directly to the Waste Management transfer station in the winter, rather than paying the fees associated with the carts.

Bryan French discussed an issue that he has had regarding a mess on his commercial building that he said was related to the operation of a city plow. He said he has had

difficulty getting a response to his concerns and would like someone to follow up with him.

Margaret Brumm discussed several issues that she has identified throughout the city that she would like the city to respond to. She then listed a series of her concerns related to Presque Isle, including the state of Charles Kawbawgam's gravestone and informational sign, a set of stairs on the island and a concern of wildfire risk.

## **Presentation(s)**

### **2. Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership, by Tristan Luoma**

Tristan Luoma, representing the Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership, provided the City Commission with an update on the organization's activities. The partnership is a nonprofit organization that supports Marquette's sister city relationships with Higashiomi, Japan, and Kajaani, Finland.

Recent highlights included hosting a delegation from Higashiomi; recognition of Paulette Lindberg, who traveled to Japan and received an award for 45 years of service to the partnership; continued student exchanges between NMU and the Japan Center for Michigan Universities; a delegation visit from Marquette to Kajaani, marking the reactivation of that sister city relationship; and making plans to host a Finnish delegation in Marquette and to also send a Marquette group to Finland in 2026 for Kajaani's 375th anniversary.

Commissioner Davis emphasized the historical importance of the relationship, noting the strength of the relationships and the wide reach of the organization.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Jermeay Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

**3.a.** Approve the minutes of the April 28, 2025 regular Commission meeting

**3.b.** Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$757,619.62

**3.c.** Lease Renewal - Mailer and Insert Machine

**3.d.** Schedule Public Hearing - Single Lot Special Assessment Roll #592

## **New Business**

### **4. Ordinance 25-05: Solid Waste Collection - Roll Call Vote**

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance 25-05, seconded by Commissioner Jermeay Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

5. Ordinance 25-06: Street Parking Restrictions - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jermei Ottaway moved to Approve the adoption of Ordinance 25-06, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried by Roll Call Vote .  
The motion carried 5-1, with Commissioner Mayer voting no.

6. Bike Month Proclamation

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to adopt the Bike Month Proclamation as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

7. National Public Works Week Proclamation

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to adopt the National Public Works Week Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

8. Marquette Cultural Center and Trailhead - Bid Award and Construction Contract

Commissioner Davis moved to award the bid to Premeau Construction, approve the construction contract in the amount of \$1,024,041, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign it. Commissioner Ottaway seconded, and discussion followed.

The Commission discussed the original bids, which came in high, and talked about the difficulty in approving a project with a budget shortfall.

Staff and Commissioners discussed concerns about the cost of future capital improvements for the building and the potential for unforeseen expenses, but highlighted the fact that the project is supported by more than \$1 million in grant funding.

Following discussion, the Commission voted on the 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.**

Lesley Williams thanked the Commission for acknowledging her concerns and said she understands that the cart system is part of modernization. She suggested future options for smaller carts moving forward.

Margaret Brumm talked about the danger of wildfires.

**Comments from the Commission**

**Commissioners Mayer, Ottaway, Davis, and Larson** had no comments.

**Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel** talked about how busy the bike path is and asked people to be cautious and aware.

**Mayor Hanley** wished Commissioner Larson an early Happy Birthday.

## **Comments from the City Manager**

**Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins** provided an update on the city's active transportation planning efforts. He said planning events are scheduled for May that will include pop-up input sessions around town to gather feedback from pedestrians and cyclists, as well as evening workshops with interactive activities focused on the city's biking and walking infrastructure. More details will be shared in the near future.

**City Manager Karen Kovacs** thanked Bryan French for discussing the difficulty he has been having and said she will get his contact info and follow up. She said that fires and smoking are both banned on Presque Isle and talked about a fire stewardship plan that is reviewed and acted on routinely. She said there is common cleanup and work being done there and said all prior data has indicated that the moisture ratio on the island is at a safe level.

The City Manager then took a moment to recognize the City's public works department, highlighting the dedication and hard work of the staff that keeps the city clean, safe and operational.

## **Adjournment**

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

---

**Jessica Hanley, 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.***