



**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Tuesday, May 27, 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

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

Announcements

Mayor Hanley asked staff to talk about the events happening this week related to the formulation of an Active Transportation Plan for the City.

Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins said the City is currently working on the plan, which focuses on various forms of travel. He said that over the next two days, the City will host public engagement events, including pop-up activities during the day and evening workshops. He said the goal is to gather public input and meet people where they are and he said an online survey is also available to collect additional feedback.

Boards and Committees

1. Reappointment(s)

Madeline Goodman, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, for a term ending 6-1-2028
George Patrick, Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board, for a term ending 6-1-2028

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the reappointments as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Chelsey Wilkinson, representing Room at the Inn, expressed gratitude to the City Commission, City and Police leadership, and Room at the Inn's board for engaging in a productive discussion about the ordinance proposed tonight. She thanked officials for delaying the vote to allow for that dialogue and appreciated the commitment to revisit the ordinance in six months. She also encouraged the City to re-establish a homelessness

task force, involving nonprofits and public agencies at both the city and county levels. She said it was good to have this discussion about helping the homeless but also allowing the Police Department to protect the community.

Margaret Brumm spoke about her recent experiences in the City Police Department's Citizens Academy and spoke about the bike rodeo safety event happening this week.

David Nyren said he supports limiting overnight occupation of public property and said that real solutions require investment in services like addiction treatment, job training, and mental health care. He said that allowing overnight occupation doesn't address root causes and could strain local resources.

David Campana spoke in support of water fluoridation, noting that the practice is widely used and that he believes it is safe.

Presentation(s)

2. Recognition of City Retiree - Battalion Chief Brian Talvensaari

Fire Chief Ian Davis spoke about retiring Battalion Chief Brian Talvensaari, who has spent 27 years with the Marquette City Fire Department. Originally from the Copper Country, Brian began his career as a volunteer firefighter, later serving in multiple roles including EMT, fire investigator, and hazmat technician. He also served on the Michigan Fire Safety Board and earned national certification. Commissioners thanked Mr. Talvensaari for his dedication and wished him well in retirement, noting he will be greatly missed.

Public Hearing(s)

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

Mayor Hanley opened the public hearing.

Marcus Cook commented, indicating that he was unhappy with the charge related to the City mowing his lawn. He voiced frustration with this process and said he was hoping to grow native plant species while maintaining his yard within the established limits.

Staff and Commissioners emphasized the standard City procedure, which includes multiple notices and efforts by staff to contact property owners. They said the charge largely reflects reimbursement for City-incurred costs and said the City now allows alternative landscaping under updated ordinances, provided residents follow a certification process.

With no one else looking to comment, Mayor Hanley closed the hearing.

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to Approve confirm Single Lot Special Assessment Roll #592, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Warrant, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written,

seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

- 4.a. Approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025 regular Commission meeting
- 4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,305,542.12
- 4.c. 906 Adventure Team Non-Profit Status - Roll Call Vote
- 4.d. MEDC RAP 2.0 Grant Agreement
- 4.e. Application for License to Use City Property Adjacent to 113 W. Baraga Avenue
- 4.f. Resolutions for Unpaid Stormwater and Unpaid Water and Wastewater - Roll Call Vote
- 4.g. Schedule Public Hearing - Ordinance #25-07 for Land Development Code Amendments
- 4.h. US-41 Hospital Roundabouts - Right-of-Way Conveyance

Unfinished Business

5. Ordinance #25-02: Overnight Occupation of Public Property

A motion originally made on April 14 was postponed to tonight's meeting, so the City Commission had the following motion pending: Commissioner Mayer moved to adopt Ordinance 25-05, and Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cody Mayer now moved to amend this motion on the floor to append the words 'as amended and presented at the City Commission's May 27 meeting, and to direct staff to return to the Commission prior to 2026 with an update and direct the Police Department to provide a monthly report to the Commission regarding the use of this ordinance until revisited later this year'. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gottlieb and Commission discussion ensued.

The commission discussed the regular report that was being requested, including how it would be communicated, what data it would include and what value it brought.

Commissioner Mayer ultimately rescinded this motion.

Commissioner Mayer then moved to amend the still-pending motion on the floor to append the words 'as amended and presented at the City Commission's May 27 meeting, and to direct staff to return to the Commission prior to 2026 with an update'. Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Commission then took up a voted on the now-amended motion "to adopt Ordinance 25-05 as amended and presented at the City Commission's May 27 meeting, and to direct staff to return to the Commission prior to 2026 with an update."

This motion **carried unanimously passed** by roll call vote.

The vote carried 6-1, with Commissioner Mayer voting no.

New Business

6. Fire Department Community Risk/Standards of Cover/Compensation Study

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve approve the Fitch & Associates, LLC proposal for consulting services for \$49,995, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

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

Margaret Brumm talked about issues on Presque Isle.

Briella Kovacs wished Happy Birthday to Karen Kovacs, and led those present in singing happy birthday.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Ottaway wished the City Manager a happy birthday and thanked all parties for working together to find equitable solutions to the issues discussed tonight.

Commissioner Davis echoed these sentiments and then offered a brief summary of a conference focused on freshwater communities from the U.S. and Canada.

Commissioner Gottlieb also praised the work put into the ordinance conversation tonight.

Commissioner Larson acknowledged efforts by Room at the Inn, city staff, and police in addressing the issues discussed tonight. He said tonight's vote marked a step forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel praised tonight's efforts and encouraged revisiting the idea of a regional homelessness task force. He also mentioned the seasonal uptick in activity in Marquette and urged residents to be cautious of increased traffic and people on bike paths.

Commissioner Mayer thanked staff for putting so much work into the ordinance and shared that he was recently appointed to the housing and utility board for the Sault Tribe, representing the Marquette and Munising areas.

Mayor Hanley said that while the commission took a step forward, solving homelessness will require addressing root causes, and she supported the idea of reviving the community-wide homelessness task force.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs provided updates about repairs in city parks and discussed plans to revisit tonight's discussion before the end of the year.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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