



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, March 25, 2024
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Robbi Marcelain to the Board of Review for an unexpired term ending 02-01-27

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the appointment of Robbi Marcelain to the Board of Review for an unexpired term ending 02-01-27, seconded by Commissioner Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

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

Lisa Jahnke , discussed the removal of overhead utility on Lake Street.

Cary Gottlieb, resident on Lake Street, asked for City support on the removal of City fiber optic line on Lake Street.

Brooke Tharp encouraged the Commission to work toward affordable housing as she believes Marquette's population will continue to grow due to climate migrants.

Margaret Brumm explained the benefits of planting clover compared to grass as it relates to Presque Isle Park.

Presentation(s)

2. Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee, by Dan LaBar

Dan LaBar, member of the Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee, provided the annual presentation on behalf of the committee. He explained the Committee's accomplishments and goals.

A moment of silence was observed to honor and recognize the passing of Tara Gluski, PIPAC Chair.

3. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

- 3.a.** Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Commission work session
- 3.b.** Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 regular Commission meeting
- 3.c.** Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,080,256.04 which excludes \$758.32 in City Commission travel reimbursement, this reimbursement will be New Business item #4.
- 3.d.** Carden International Circus, Inc. - Amended Special Event Permit
- 3.e.** Materials Testing Services for 2024 City Construction Projects
- 3.f.** Ordinance 729 - Downtown Development Authority TIF
- 3.g.** Proclamation- Strengthening Families Month
- 3.h.** Tourist Park Playground - Bid Award, Contract approval and Budget Adjustment

New Business

4. Mayor Davis Travel Reimbursement

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to approve travel reimbursement for Mayor Davis in the amount of \$758.32 for the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley.

Mayor Davis recused herself from the vote. The motion passed 6-0.

5. Presque Isle Bandshell - Design Bid Award and Contract Approval

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Hanley, moved to award the bid for design services and construction oversight of the Presque Isle Bandshell to AWH Architects, LLC of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract, 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 reminded the public of the BLP meeting taking place on Tuesday. She

also announced she will be giving a presentation regarding the history of the Cliffs Dow site. The presentation will be held at the Peter White Public Library.

Dan LaBar urged the Commission to keep in mind the character of the former bandshell and the history of Presque Isle Park when considering the design of the new bandshell. Cameron Smith thanked the mayor for traveling to the Michigan Municipal League conference and working with state legislators. He brought attention to a recent bill about dyslexia passed by the State Senate Committee on Education. He spoke on the advancement of education and communication through legislation and the importance of these advancements in the Upper Peninsula.

Brooke Tharp encouraged the Commission to find creative ways to establish rent control within the city.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Hanley read the Strengthening Families Month Proclamation that was approved within the consent agenda.

Commissioner Schloegel recognized youth sports in the Upper Peninsula and how great it is to see the community come together and support each other. He acknowledged public comment regarding advancing education and communication.

Commissioner Smith spoke on the diversity in local government which was displayed in the variety of topics on the agenda and discussed during public comment. She requested the city manager provide additional information about the utility lines on Lake Street.

Commissioner Larson highlighted the United Way community wide Easter egg hunt.

Commissioner Mayer thanked Cary Gottlieb on his public comment providing information on the utility line project on Lake Street. He also stated he hopes PIPAC and Arts and Culture can be involved in the stakeholder and public engagement process of the new bandshell. He would like to see the indigenous people be honored when considering the design on the new bandshell.

Commissioner Ottaway encouraged the public to continue to attend meetings and to share their thoughts and concerns - allowing their voices to be heard.

Mayor Davis appreciates the passion the public has regarding affordable housing and reminded the public of the Commission recently approving Black Rocks Crossing low-income housing development which will begin this spring. She is also impressed with the grass roots effort by the Lake Street neighborhood and thinks underground utility will really add value to the neighborhood. She encouraged the public to review the proposal from AWH Architects.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs spoke on the Lake Street utility project, the neighborhood fundraising for the project and the City's role. She stated if the Board of Light and Power decides to bury or reroute their lines, along with PFN then the City's fiber line would be the last remaining on the poles. This would then make the City responsible for any costs associated with the maintenance of those poles. She explained the City's replacement of the fiber optic lines on that street are part of a much larger project. Funding and timing of the entire project must be taken into considering when discussing this section of line. She stated staff are exploring all options for this project including a Special Assessment or alternative funding sources through a possible grant opportunity.

Lastly, she noted customers of the Board of Light and Power shall expect a change in

the way in which they can pay their electrical bill. This change will ensure their bill is processed in a timelier manner.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Sally Davis, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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