

City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, November 25, 2024
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Absent: Mayer

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to excuse Commissioner Cody Mayer due to personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Maichael Larson and Carried Unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Hanley said City offices are closed Wednesday through Friday of this week, in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday. She also highlighted the upcoming Community Conversation on Belonging, sponsored by the City Office of Arts and Culture and Innovate Marquette. The forum, set for Dec. 3, is an opportunity for residents and visitors to share their stories, challenges and idea about what it means to belong in Marquette.

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

Margaret Brumm spoke about cigarette butt recycling and said people need to be made aware of how to dispose of lithium batteries.

Alex Conklin said the building he rents an apartment in sold recently and is being converted into a single-family home. He said the tenants had discussed forming a housing cooperative, as it is becoming more difficult to find affordable housing. He said he would like to discuss City Code amendments that could help tenants in similar situations.

Presentation(s)

1. Life Saving Efforts, by Detective Captain Chris Aldrich

Marquette Police Department Detective Captain Chris Aldrich spoke about an

emergency situation that occurred recently in the City's Baraga Gym. He said a resident on Nov. 11 suffered a medical emergency while in the gym and Pam Waters and Michael Watts were among the residents that assisted during the crisis. Aldrich said Ms. Waters, a retired nurse, recognized that the victim needed CPR and immediately began administering CPR, with the assistance of Mr. Watts. The two offered assistance until first responders arrived on scene and utilized an AED that had only recently been installed in the gym. The victim survived the incident, and Aldrich said he is certain the outcome would have been much worse if not for the quick response.

Pam Waters then spoke briefly. She said there were a lot of people assisting on-site that day and she said that it felt somewhat awkward to be recognized for something she was trained to do. That said, she said she was happy to accept this honor, as she thought it was important to highlight kindness. She said it is a deep honor to accept recognition from a grateful community for an act of human kindness.

Commissioners praised the actions of those being honored, with Commissioner Davis praising the decision to install an AED in the gym only a few months ago. She also said that this is a reminder that people should take CPR and life-saving training.

2. Lake Superior Community Partnership Update, by Chief Executive Officer Christopher Germain

LSCP CEO Chris Germain offered an update on the LSCP.

He reviewed membership numbers for the organization and discussed staff and the history of the LSCP. He highlighted the ways in which the LSCP supports economic development in the city and in the county, touching on the idea that expending some effort improving external partnerships can actually benefit Marquette County.

The presentation highlighted LSCP efforts related to childcare, air service, and housing (including private-public efforts to address housing shortages), among other topics.

3. Election Board, by City Clerk Kyle Whitney

City Clerk Kyle Whitney discussed the activities of the City's Election board from the previous year, noting that the board's role is limited and almost entirely prescribed by state law: the board verifies candidates for local office, appoints election workers for each election and tests tabulator programming prior to each election. He said there will soon be two seats open on the board.

Whitney also shared information about the recent Presidential Election, in which nearly 11,000 votes were in the City. He talked about the impacts of recent changes to election laws and processes in Michigan, and discussed the local results of the recent election, including the fact that voters approved four of the five proposed

City Charter amendments.

4. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jermeay Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

- 4.a.** Approve the minutes of the November 11, 2024 regular Commission meeting
- 4.b.** Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,205,373.22
- 4.c.** Final Payment - Community Master Plan
- 4.d.** Fire Safety Systems Service Agreement
- 4.e.** Resolution- Support for House Bills 4274 and 4275 of 2023 - Roll Call Vote
- 4.f.** Resolution- Support for Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport - Roll Call Vote
- 4.g.** Sale of Surplus Equipment
- 4.h.** Used Sweeper Purchase

New Business

5. 2025 City Commission Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the 2025 City Commission meeting schedule, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem 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.

There was no public comment at this point.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Davis pointed out the resolutions adopted on tonight's Consent Agenda (supporting the regional airport and two proposed house bills) and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Gottlieb said he was personally disappointed to see the failure of the proposal to eliminate term limits for appointees to the city's volunteer advisory boards and committees. As these term limits can make it difficult to keep the board and committee rosters filled, he said he hopes the community will now step up and volunteer for these boards in larger numbers than in recent history.

Commissioner Larson thanked tonight's presenters.

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel said Happy Thanksgiving and he also mentioned the recent passing of David Boyd, who was very involved across the community throughout his life. He said Mr. Boyd was a great community asset, and said he was inspired by Mr. Boyd.

Commissioner Ottaway said the Senior Center is a great community and he thought it

was amazing that there were people on-hand to save a life during an emergency. He also wished Commissioner Davis a happy birthday.

Mayor Hanley said it was great to see how the emergency situation in the gym turned out.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said there are some lithium battery disposal instructions on the MCSWMA's website at www.recycle906.com. She said residents should read the information there, and should call if they have questions.

She said, in response to the earlier public comment, that the Land Development Code does allow for cooperative housing and urged the tenants to make contact with staff in order to discuss their options.

Finally, she recognized Senior Services Director Maureen McFadden and Captain Aldrich for their involvement in the emergency response in the Baraga Gym.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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