



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Special Meeting

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Absent: Mayer

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to excuse Commissioner Mayer for personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb 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 had no announcements.

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

Ron Matson, president of the Harlow Farms Conservation Community, said he would like the City to include a Wilson Street multi-use pathway in the City's plans.

1. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel and Carried Unanimously.

1.a. Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular Commission meeting

New Business

2. Budget Overview

City Manager Karen Kovacs, Deputy City Manager Sean Hobbins and City CFO Mary Schlicht led the Commission through the budget presentation, which included the presentation of a draft budget, which will be refined prior to being proposed for final adoption.

City Manager Kovacs highlighted challenges and successes, discussing the City's improved financial condition compared to just a few years ago, as well as future uncertainty across various revenue sources.

Staff emphasized challenges tied to limited revenue growth, rising costs for pensions and healthcare, and the City's specific revenue constraints. The presentation highlighted departmental requests, infrastructure needs, and long-term debt strategies.

Much of the discussion focused on questions of debt and bonding, as well as on the costs and challenge of maintaining roads and core infrastructure. The meeting included a presentation from City Engineer Mik Kilpela, who shared information about city infrastructure, including a discussion about long-term maintenance costs.

During the meeting, the Commission recessed for a brief break at 10:38 a.m., resuming the meeting at 10:45 a.m., and also recessed for lunch from roughly 11:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

There was no one to comment at the second public comment.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioners thanked staff for the information shared and prepared today, expressing appreciation for the process.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the City Commission and staff for their engagement during the session and emphasized the importance of the feedback provided. She stated that the Finance team would incorporate the Commission's input into revisions of the proposed budget.

Adjournment

Mayor Hanley adjourned the meeting at 2:19 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.

Agenda Date: 8/7/2025

Video (Admin Use Only)
Special Meeting

BACKGROUND:
Special Meeting

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:
Description

No Attachments Available

Agenda Date: 8/7/2025

Consent Agenda

Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular Commission meeting

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

[07-28-25 Meeting Minutes](#)



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, July 28, 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 Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The mayor had no announcements.

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

Margaret Brumm shared her personal experience with e-bike users and expressed support for the formation of the e-bike task force.

Speaking on behalf of Marquette One-wheel, Zack Young brought attention to the Fresh Coast Float annual one-wheel group ride and the group's collaboration with the city police department to promote participant safety and adherence to local ordinances. He voiced support for the newly established e-bike and multi-use path task force and encouraged the inclusion of one-wheels in future discussions and solutions.

Matthew Luttenberger addressed the proposed resolution advocating for Amtrak expansion into the Upper Peninsula. While expressing cautious support, he urged the commission to take a broader view of transportation and infrastructure planning.

Olivia Lubig expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of traveling animal acts in circuses, citing ethical considerations and potential public safety implications.

Presentation(s)

1. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit by Mike Greutz, Anderson Tackman & Co.

Mike Greutz with Anderson, Tackman & Co. provided a high-level overview of the fiscal year 2024 audit, stating there were no significant findings.

2. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve approved the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Michael Larson and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

2.a. Approve the minutes of the July 11, 2025 work session

2.b. Approve minutes of the July 14, 2025 work session

2.c. Approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 regular Commission meeting

2.d. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,788,108.98

2.e. MSHS Cross Country Non-Profit Status - Roll Call Vote

2.f. Kurt Lahtinen - Guts Frisbee Tournament - Special Event Permit

2.g. Long Line Traffic Markings

2.h. Ordinance 25-09: Street-Naming Process

2.i. Resolution in Support of Expanding Amtrak Rail Service to Michigan's Upper Peninsula - Roll Call Vote

New Business

3. City Manager and City Attorney Evaluation Subcommittee

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to authorize the Mayor to appoint three Commissioners to serve on the City Manager and City Attorney Evaluation Subcommittee with an immediate charge to evaluate the City Manager's and City Attorney's performance in Fiscal Year 2025 and bring back a recommendation for compensation and terms of employment at the City Commission's September 29th regular meeting, supported by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Following the vote the Mayor selected Commissioner Ottaway, Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel and herself to serve on the committee.

4. Delegate - Michigan Municipal League Convention

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Schloegel moved to authorize the Mayor to appoint one City delegate to attend the 2025 Michigan Municipal League annual meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

The Mayor then selected Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel to attend the annual meeting.

5. Subcontract - KBIC and City of Marquette Forecast Grant Administration

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel moved to approve the subcontract agreement with KBIC to enable efficient execution of this public art project to install phase II of the Seven Grandfather Teachings Monument and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Larson.

Commissioners expressed support and enthusiasm for the continuation of the monument project.

Commissioner Mayer noted that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe designated him as a representative on the project's advisory committee and therefore would be abstaining from the vote.

The vote passed 6-0, with Commissioner Mayer abstaining.

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

Margaret Brumm expressed her desire to have a dedicated page on the city's website for residents to make maintenance requests.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Schloegel highlighted the overwhelming positive response he has received about Marquette's welcoming community and how well the city's events are run. **Commissioner Mayer** had no comment.

Commissioner Ottaway reflected on public comment regarding traveling animal acts. **Commissioner Davis** recognized public commenter, Zack Young, sharing his sentiment of safe and diverse transportation. She showed appreciation of his presence at the city's different planning sessions and meetings, stating his participation has made the commission more aware of the one-wheel community.

Commissioner Gottlieb agreed with public commenter, Matt Luttenberger's question over the location of a rail station in the U.P., stating the downtown area is not a suitable location, however the concept of large modes of transportation is supported. He voiced his desire for the commission to explore ways tourists could bear some of the costs associated with maintaining the city's infrastructure, with the understanding this would require change in state legislation.

Commissioner Larson highlighted the feedback he has received from the community regarding e-bikes. He acknowledged the recently created task force which is charged with exploring citizens' concerns and possible solutions.

Mayor Hanley responded to public comment regarding transportation stating the city is currently undergoing a traffic study and understands the challenges with expanding Amtrak rail service into the U.P., however she is in support of the concept. She also highlighted the pressure tourists put on the city's infrastructure, recognizing the need to push legislators towards solutions to ease the tax burden on locals.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs acknowledged the impact tourists have on our community, noting the importance of collaborating with Travel Marquette, economic development organizations and hoteliers when looking at possible solutions and the development of a

Sustainable Tourism Plan.

She expressed gratitude to public commenter Zack Young for his civic engagement, noting his contribution to the discussion by introducing information about one-wheels and thoughtfully challenging ideas. She also acknowledged Olivia Ludwig's public comment, highlighting Olivia's ongoing communication with the manager's office and her commitment to raising concerns at both the city and county levels. Kovacs encouraged her to share her perspective at an upcoming county commission meeting as well.

Finally, she highlighted the FY 2024 audit, congratulating the finance department and showing appreciation for the amount of effort and time dedicated to the auditing process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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Agenda Date: 8/7/2025

New Business
Budget Overview

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

No Attachments Available