



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, November 24, 2025

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 Jerney Ottaway moved to excuse Commissioner Mayer for personal reasons, supported by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an item to direct city staff to proceed with a contract to use the Presque Isle Pavilion, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Schloegel said that the city's winter dog park will be opening this week, after construction had delayed access to the park. He also advocated for residents to apply to serve on city boards and committees.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Kendal Mentink, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 06-01-28

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to appoint the applicant 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.

Margaret Brumm spoke about local cigarette recycling programs.

Presentation(s)

2. Kajaani, Finland Gift Presentation, by Marquette Area Sister City Chair Maureen Jensen and Liaison Randy Jensen

Maureen and Randy Jensen discussed their recent hosting of a Sister City

delegation from Kajaani, Finland.

3. Election Board, by City Clerk Kyle Whitney

City Clerk Kyle Whitney provided a summary of the Election Board's activities from the prior year, as well as a summary of the November election in the City of Marquette.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$670,224.64

4.c. Cisco Switch Lease

4.d. Peg Hirvonen Bandshell - Construction Contract Change Order

4.e. Proclamation - 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

4.f. Public Art - Freedom Monument Installation

4.g. Utilization of State Bid for Wastewater Vehicle Purchase

4.h. Direct staff to proceed with a contract to use Presque Isle Pavilion

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to direct staff to proceed with a contract to use Presque Isle Pavilion for overfill use. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gottlieb, and discussion ensued.

Commissioners discussed directing staff to prepare a contract allowing Room at the Inn to temporarily use the Presque Isle Pavilion as an overnight overflow shelter for up to ten individuals during December.

Several operational and safety expectations were identified for inclusion in the draft agreement, including a firm start and end date with no extensions; a strict occupancy limit; no loitering and use limited to overnight sleeping. Commissioners also emphasized the need to protect the City to the fullest extent possible, required on-site staffing by Room at the Inn, and clear consequences if required staffing is not present.

Liability, protection of City facilities, staff safety, and emergency response time were major concerns, though commissioners acknowledged the seriousness of the community need and expressed a desire to make the arrangement workable. Several commissioners stressed that this should be treated as a one-time emergency measure, not a recurring annual practice. Commissioners also requested that Room at the Inn continue exploring alternative locations.

The motion to proceed with developing a contract for use of Presque Isle Pavilion passed 6–0.

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

Chelsie Wilkinson, Executive Director for Room at the Inn, thanked the Commission for its difficult discussion and decision, stating that the organization shares the City's priority of community safety and is committed to addressing concerns as the temporary shelter arrangement develops.

Abigail Andrews, Room at the Inn employee, expressed gratitude for the Commission's willingness to take action despite discomfort and emphasized the organization's intent to seek longer-term solutions to the ongoing housing crisis.

Will Sullivan, Room at the Inn Board Chair, thanked the Commission. He highlighted the diverse population the shelter serves and affirmed the organization's commitment to meeting contractual expectations and addressing City concerns.

Mike Watts supported the Commission's decision but cautioned that addressing the needs of one group should not negatively impact others. He encouraged ensuring that temporary measures do not become permanent.

Tracy Hruska said she operates programs in the city gym and thanked the Commission for exploring alternate locations.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley thanked city staff and the representatives from Room at the Inn. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and urged safe travels.

Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway said this was a great discussion tonight and he said the local issue with homelessness is not much different from other communities. He said he wants to help, wants to serve as an example, and wants to protect city interests.

Commissioner Larson and **Davis** had no comments.

Commissioner Gottlieb said the issues discussed tonight are another example of a topic where it is impossible to please everyone, and said he wants the City to help where possible.

Mayor Schloegel said he echoed many prior comments and discussed the difficulty in providing services to a growing population at Room at the Inn. He said Happy Thanksgiving and asked everyone to be careful when traveling.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs thanked City staff for their dedication and discussed street cleaning, plowing, emergency responders, and emergency utility repairs.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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