



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, January 12, 2026
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 Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Schloegel had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Alex Wilkinson to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Planning Commission representative for a term ending 02-15-27.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

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

Matt Luttenberger discussed winter maintenance and commented on the impacts of snow and ice near Lakeview Arena. He shared his hopes for the future of Lakeview, discussing needs regarding equipment and staffing.

Barb Owdziej spoke about the City's request for Legislatively Directed Spending Items, which includes requests for a ladder truck and two plow trucks. She said a purchase of new plowing equipment offers an opportunity to rethink snow removal practices.

Margaret Brumm discussed the impacts of the recent major snowstorm and resulting power outages and she expressed concern regarding the Marquette Board of Light and Power's preparedness and response. She asked the City to inquire with the BLP regarding what actions were taken prior to the storm to ensure adequate emergency response.

Presentation(s)

2. Board of Review, by Chair Justin Vasseau

Board of Review Chair Justin Vasseau offered a presentation on the board's activities from the past year. He discussed the types of activities and reviews undertaken by the board, and shared the numbers of petitions filed in previous years: 114 in 2023, 122 in 2024, and 47 during 2025.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

3.a. Approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$2,350,168.23

3.c. License to Use City Property adjacent to 1150 Joliet Road

3.d. License to Use an undeveloped portion of Union Street

3.e. Donation to City Police Department

3.f. Ordinance 26-1: Animals

3.g. Peg Hirvonen Bandshell - Construction Contract Change Order

3.h. Portable Radio Purchase

3.i. Resolution for the decertification of a portion of Garfield Avenue - Roll Call Vote

3.j. Resolution for the decertification of a portion of Powder Mill Road - Roll Call Vote

New Business

4. Noquemanon Ski Marathon Trail Access Permit

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the request from the Noquemanon Trail Network Council, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the permit, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

5. Legislatively Directed Spending Items - 2025-2026 Request

Commissioner Cary Gottlieb moved to Direct the City Manager to submit the requests identified for Legislatively Directed Spending Items 2025-2026 with the appropriate State Legislators, 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 emergency preparedness and response and urged the City and County to consider dedicating paid staff and forming a joint subcommittee to professionally coordinate emergency response, shelter operations, and public communication, and to focus on increased public education and civil defense training related to emergency preparedness.

Matt Luttenberger discussed winter road maintenance and encouraged legislative support for communities with heavy snowfall. He also talked about Lakeview Arena, mentioning concerns with snow removal and parking lot conditions.

Evan Reister said he works with the Upper Peninsula state representatives. He thanked the City Commission for bringing forward the funding requests and stated that he looks forward to working with the City.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Hanley commented on the recent severe winter storm and thanked City staff, including Public Works, Police, Fire, and other employees, for working under difficult conditions and for their response efforts. She requested that the City Manager look into concerns raised regarding the Board of Light and Power's storm preparedness, while also expressing appreciation for BLP linemen and their extended efforts during the outage.

Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway said Commissioners have received numerous complaints regarding Waste Management services. He encouraged residents to continue communicating concerns to City Commissioners, City staff, and to Waste Management directly, noting that ongoing feedback is helpful in identifying issues and prompting improvements.

Commissioner Mayer said he appreciates everyone's patience during his recent absence due to family medical matters. He also requested additional information from the City Manager regarding the Board of Light and Power's response to recent power outages, stating concern over the duration of outages given the regional nature of the storm.

Commissioner Larson welcomed Commissioner Mayer back.

Commissioner Davis echoed appreciation for City and BLP staff during the winter weather event. She also highlighted the fundraising efforts by the Marquette City Band for the new band shell project.

Commissioner Gottlieb highlighted an item on the consent agenda that represented a \$25,000 donation to the Marquette City Police Department and he expressed appreciation for the donor's generosity and support.

Mayor Schloegel discussed the severity of the recent storm, describing it as one of the most significant weather events in recent decades. He commended City staff, first responders, and BLP crews for their sustained response efforts. He said lessons may be learned from the event and expressed confidence that staff would address concerns raised.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs provided updates on waste and recycling services, highlighting the availability of an online reporting form and encouraging residents to report missed pickups or issues so they may be tracked and addressed in coordination with Waste Management. She discussed challenges encountered during the storm, particularly power outages, and clarified emergency management roles between the City and County. As for snow management, she noted that Public Works crews are prioritizing

school zones, major routes, and high-visibility intersections and she encouraged residents to contact Public Works or her office with concerns. She also stated that she would follow up with the Board of Light and Power regarding storm response.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, 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.