

City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855



**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, February 9, 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 Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jermey Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Schloegel had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Martha Fitzgerald to the Marquette Housing Commission for an unexpired term ending 6-14-26 and the subsequent term ending 6-14-31

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously.

2. Reappointment(s)

Kevin Clegg to the Planning Commission for a term ending 2-15-29
Steve Lawry to the Planning Commission for a term ending 2-15-29

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the reappointments as listed, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jermey 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.

Ryan Stock spoke in opposition to the City Commission's recent resolution supporting House Bills 4007 and 4283. He referenced broader local efforts to address climate challenges and urged a commitment to a meaningful climate action plan.

Maddie Smerin said she is hoping to grow food and native plants in her front and side yards and in City right-of-way. She said she is working constructively with staff to seek

clarification and potential code updates.

Ron Mattson spoke in support of the City's MDOT Transportation Alternative Program Grant application. He discussed the history of the residential areas along Wilson Street and he said the pathway could improve safety and connectivity.

Dick Constance, the president of the Brookstone Condominium Association, said the organization supports the previously mentioned grant application.

Ann Fisher spoke in support of the Wilson Street path concept, describing personal challenges with traffic and mobility in the area.

3. Consent Agenda - Roll Call Vote

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

3.a. Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 regular Commission meeting

3.b. Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 work session

3.c. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$1,678,977.31

3.d. Capital Improvements Plan - Amended Projects List

3.e. City's Acceptance of Donations - Policy Adoption

3.f. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative - Agreement Approval

3.g. Ordinance 26-2: Abandoned Vehicles - Roll Call Vote

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

3.i. Resolution: Fee Schedule Amendment - Roll Call Vote

3.j. Resolution: Poverty Exemption and Asset Test -Roll Call Vote

New Business

4. Ishkode - Public Art Installation

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve Phase II of the public art project, Ishkode, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the contract commissioning artist Jason Quigno to design, fabricate, and install the stone sculpture completing the Seven Grandfather Teachings Monument, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Passed.

Commissioner Mayer abstained from voting, after stating that he was the Sault Set Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' representative on the committee that oversaw the project selection. He said that received no reimbursement in that role, but that he wanted to avoid the appearance of any conflict.

The motion carried 6-0.

5. MDOT Transportation Alternative Program Grant - Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the resolution authorizing application and implementation of the Michigan Transportation Alternative Grant, seconded by Commissioner Cary Gottlieb and Carried Unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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

Ryan Stock shared additional comments about the Commission's recent resolution, criticizing continued reliance on natural gas generation. He expressed concern about long-term environmental impacts and he urged the Commission to rescind its prior resolution.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Mayer spoke about the Commission's recent resolution supporting the energy-related bills in the Michigan House. He talked about the impacts of the Board of Light and Power's RICE generators, which could be forced out of operation if the bills in question don't pass. He spoke about the history of energy legislation, and said there is not a feasible near-term alternative to the RICE units, noting impacts to reliability, resident utility costs, and potential consequences for local employers. He indicated the BLP is still paying debt on the units and would need time to develop an "off-ramp," while expressing appreciation for the public input.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioner Mayer and said she agrees. She said she supports moving toward greener energy long-term and noted the City's prior transition away from coal was a positive step. She said the economic impact of eliminating local generation would be too high for residents. She also expressed support for the Wilson Street pathway project and hopes the design accommodates mobility needs.

Commissioner Gottlieb said he voted to support the energy resolution based on economic concerns and said the alternative could be devastating to Marquette and the Upper Peninsula. He said he doesn't regret his vote but that he also wants to move forward with developing and advancing a functional green energy plan.

Commissioner Hanley said she also made her vote in favor of the recent resolution due to economic concerns. She also said that the UP200 sled dog races were happening this week.

Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway echoed the messages regarding the resolution and urged residents to watch the video of the Jan. 26 meeting. He said he was very much looking forward to the UP200.

Mayor Schloegel said it was important to remember that the city made significant environmental progress when the two local coal plants were decommissioned, and said that future technology may enable additional clean-energy options when the current natural gas generators reach end of life. He emphasized the importance of pursuing changes responsibly without imposing excessive costs on residents. He also promoted the UP200, thanking organizers, volunteers, veterinarians, and Public Works staff for snow operations, and encouraged patience as winter maintenance continues.

Commissioner Larson had no comments.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Kovacs said energy is a hot topic in the region and comes up frequently in planning and management discussions, offering to connect with Ryan Stock and his students.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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