



**Meeting Minutes
City Commission**

**Monday, February 23, 2026
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

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

Absent: Gottlieb

Commissioner Davis moved to excuse Commissioner Gottlieb from tonight's meeting due to personal reasons, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Announcements

Mayor Schloegel spoke about the current efforts to locate NMU student Trenton Massey, who was reported missing and was last seen early Sunday morning. He praised the community response and the efforts of volunteers.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Michael Tuominen to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending 2-15-29

Ashley Saari to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 6-1-28

Susan Estler to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 6-1-26 and the subsequent term ending 6-1-29

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

2. Reappointment(s)

Jim Compton to the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board for a term ending 2-1-29

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the reappointment as listed,

seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer 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 were no public comments at this time.

Presentation(s)

3. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, by Chair Amanda Gobert

Amanda Gobert, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, provided an overview of the Board's activities and priorities.

The board currently consists of 13 members, following consolidation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Harbor Advisory Committee, and Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee. The board is required to reduce membership to 11 by 2027 and Ms. Gobert said she anticipates no difficulty meeting that requirement due to term expirations and voluntary departures.

Ms. Gobert reviewed the board's activities of the prior year, and ran through a summary of the recreation facilities maintained in the City.

She discussed recent and ongoing projects, including Kids Cove, Lakeview Arena upgrades, support for the Cultural Trail and trailhead, and construction of the Presque Isle bandshell, as well as work to support the five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, amendments to the Special Events Policy, park naming, and bandshell fundraising efforts. She said the board supported an ordinance prohibiting dogs on certain playground surfaces, and said three board members participated in the City's E-Bike Task Force and provided regular updates.

Looking ahead, Gobert highlighted plans to continue work on multi-use path regulations, marina fiscal policy and capital planning, grant initiatives, and alternative funding mechanisms for park improvements. She said ongoing concerns include balancing natural resource protection with development, parking lot maintenance, park use, staffing challenges, and communication between advisory boards and the Commission.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Gobert and the board for the work.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Michael Larson moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Cody Mayer and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$771,240.46

4.c. KBIC Funding for Marquette Junior Hockey Corp.

- 4.d. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for Marquette Junior Hockey Corp.
- 4.e. KBIC Funding for the Women's Center
- 4.f. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Funding for the Women's Center

New Business

- 5. Reschedule March 9, 2026 Regular City Commission Meeting

Commissioner Sally Davis moved to Approve rescheduling the first regular City Commission meeting in March to Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., 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.

There were no public comments at this time.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Larson said he wanted to show appreciation for the efforts of the community, which came together to help look for the missing NMU student.

Commissioner Mayer said it was great to see the coordination effort, as well as the local response to the missing student.

Commissioner Davis talked about the local search, and also spoke about the snow removal efforts and public works crews.

Commissioner Hanley talked about the impacts of the intense winter.

Mayor Pro Tem Ottaway echoed all the other comments and also said MAPS had two upcoming public hearings about their bond proposal.

Mayor Schloegel talked about the success of the UP200 last week and discussed struggles with trash collection in weather like this.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the Public Works staff for their efforts during this very snowy winter. She said City crews have been working extended hours throughout the winter to address the significant snowfall and explained that heavy snowfall events can make it difficult to complete all eight plow routes within a single shift, asking residents for patience as crews work through affected areas.

She said sidewalk routes continue to be cleared, with school routes prioritized, and said the multi-use path is cleared as staffing allows, though roads and snowbank removal remain higher priorities.

Adjournment

Mayor Schloegel adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Paul Schloegel, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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