

**City of Marquette
Council Meeting
Marquette City Hall
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00PM**

Mayor Weipert called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with roll call and pledge of allegiance. In attendance: Gilman, Halvorson, Schneider, Young. Absent: Ries. Motion by Gilman, second by Halvorson to approve the consent agenda to include: agenda, 11/16/2021 minutes, bills & claims from 11/17/2021-12/14/2021 of \$45,634.12, November bank reconciliations, treasurer's report, and budget report with \$112,686.91 in revenue and \$53,212.53 in expenses. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Denny Mason reported the DNR is checking on status of the fishing pier relocation project but also requested an update on the senior housing project. Mayor reported that we have not received information from the developer and the city may want to look for another interested developer. Tina and Amos Troester are the new owners of 133 North St. apartment building and presented their plans and ideas to improve the property to include a laundromat, meat store, storage units, and office space. They request a partnership with the city to apply for the Community Catalyst Grant. Motion by Schneider, second by Halvorson to pursue the Community Catalyst Grant pre-application. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The county plans to possibly widen and improve Pleasant Ridge Rd and is aware of past drainage problems in the city from heavy rains so requests city involvement during planning phase. Motion by Schneider, second by Gilman to partner with Clayton County for Pleasant Ridge Rd improvement planning. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. A public hearing will be scheduled to begin gathering input. Storm water repairs were required at 82 North St to install 2 separate drainage lines: one for city and one for the owner because the old drainage line collapsed and located under the accessory structure. The owner is requesting relief from the original invoice of ½ the cost of repairs and is willing to pay \$4,000. After discussion, motion Schneider, second by Young to credit the invoice \$2,469.50 leaving a balance due of \$4,000. Roll call vote, ayes: Gilman, Schneider, Young; abstain: Halvorson, motion carried.

Committee Reports: Public work has been busy with equipment maintenance and is seeking another quote from an engineer for the ultraviolet system at the sewer plant. Wetland Center will be open Tues-Fri during winter and reviewed highlights of the written report. The Chamber and Police also provided written reports

The State Auditor has issued an advisory that public funds should not be allocated to private non-profits. In order to continue funding NEICAC, a 28E has been requested. Our attorney has reviewed and approved the document. Motion by Schneider, second by Gilman to approve the 28E agreement with NEICAC. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. A simple agreement will be drafted for the city to consider when making donations to other private non-profit organizations such as Chamber, Helping Services, and Substance Abuse Services.

Clayton County Conservation, the Wetland Centre, and Mayor have met to discuss future operations of the Wetland Centre. Clayton County Conservation is interested in taking over Wetland Centre operations. The Mayor thinks it would be best for the longevity of the current operations. Clayton County would prefer ownership of the property. City Council would like to gather public input regarding this proposal. No action taken. After discussion on cell phone reimbursement, motion by

Young, second by Schneider that city clerk and public works assistant be reimbursed \$35 per month for use of their cell phones for city business. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

An employee vision plan proposal from IRWA was reviewed. After discussion, motion by Gilman, second by Schneider to table discussion and gather additional quotes. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Gilman, second by Schneider to hold a budget workshop on Monday, January 3rd at 4:30PM. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor reported that Don Ostert has accepted another position and is leaving the casino, but assured everyone that the casino is not closing. The buffet has been closed due to staff limitations and reported that current ownership is planning for capital improvements, not closure. Appreciation certificates were presented to Cindy Halvorson, Ryan Young, and John Ries as outgoing council members. Thank you for your service to the community. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13PM. All ayes; motion carried.

Attest:

Stephen Weipert, Mayor

Bonnie Basemann, City Clerk