

# CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 3:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers, 7358 Market St., Mackinac Island, Michigan

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### I. Call to Order

Mayor Doud called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

### II. Roll Call

#### PRESENT

- Richard Chambers
- Tom Corrigan
- Steven Moskwa
- Alan Sehoan (left the meeting at 4:25 pm)
- Jason St. Onge
- Richard Linn, Treasurer
- Michael Gruits, Chief of Police

#### ABSENT

- Anneke Myers

### IV. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Sehoan, St. Onge

### X. Old Business

- Discussion and / or action regarding the Rates, Fees, and Schedules for the 2025 season, submitted by Arnold Transit & Shepler's Ferry
- Veronica Dobrowolski of Arnold Transit addressed the Council
  - o Winter service will begin on December 16th with the Joliet and the Straits of Mackinac II
  - o Service will be moving to the Main Dock on Island and Dock 1 in St. Ignace

Motion by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to enter in to closed session at 3:20 pm to discuss a written attorney opinion regarding ferry boat matters.

Ayes: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Sehoan, St. Onge

Motion by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to leave closed session at 4:07 pm.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Sehoan, St. Onge

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Chambers, to enter in to open session at 4:07 pm

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Sehoan, St. Onge

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Corrigan to approve the following resolution:

**Whereas**, the Council has before it today a request from Arnold Transit Co. and Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry to approve rate increases for the 2025 season.

The purchase of Mackinac Island Ferry Company by Hoffman Family of Companies / Hoffman Marine, occurred relatively recently on July 1, 2024, at the height of the tourist season. Since that time, the ferry boat companies and the City of Mackinac Island have faced several obstacles.

The recent purchase of all of the ferry boat companies by one company presents the City with a monopoly situation, a situation the City has never before faced.

The ferry boat companies today have mentioned expenses they have incurred, but the City does not have any information about those costs, other than the brief oral statements made today. No information regarding the revenues of the companies has been presented to the Council. There has not been sufficient time for the City to create a regulatory system for the monopoly of ferry boat services. The City wants to continue working with the ferry boat companies to evaluate the rates.

The City is in the process of hiring a consultant to assist with the regulation of the ferry boat companies.

At this point in time, the City has not received enough information nor had enough time to evaluate the available information.

**THEREFORE**, it is hereby resolved that at the present time, the Mackinac Island City Council is freezing the rates that were in place for the 2024 season with the following exceptions:

- 1.) Group rates, which were not previously established with the City, are approved as presented
- 2.) Online rates will not exceed the walk-up rates

It is further resolved that the schedules presented to the City for the 2025 season are approved.

**City of Mackinac Island Resolution Continued:**

It is further resolved that the City will not increase the 2025 franchise fee by the CPI as required under the Franchise Agreement.

It is further resolved that any reference to “PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE” must be removed from any and all ferry documentation.

It is further resolved that parking rates must be brought to the City Council by January 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

**Voting Yea:** R. Chambers, T. Corrigan, S. Moskwa, J. St. Onge

**Voting Nay:** A. Sehoyan

**Absent:** A. Myers

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

- Both Shepler’s & Arnold Transit stated that they would need to reevaluate the 2025 schedules which were accepted at today’s meeting due to not being approved for their requested rate increase
  - o Council responded that both companies are more than welcome to submit new schedules to be consider for amendment

**V. Approval of Minutes**

- The November 25, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes were presented.
  - o Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood as presented.

**VI. Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

- The December 11, 2024 Treasurer's Report was presented.
  - o The Treasurer's report was placed on file as presented.

**VII. Approval of Payments for:**

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Moskwa to pay the bills and payroll as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

**XI. New Business**

- GDS Associates Consulting contract  
Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Chambers, to accept the contract with amendments made by Attorney Evashevski.  
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Sehoyan, St. Onge
- 2025 Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings  
Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to adopt the 2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings with the last meeting of the year to be set for Friday, December 19, 2025  
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge
- Pre-approved trailer permit, submitted by Mission Point Resort, to haul and store tools for work at the Straits Lodge  
Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Chambers to approve the preapproved trailer permit  
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge
- Two (2) vehicle permits, submitted by Dickinson Homes, to move two (2) lifts from Hoban Hill to 6948 Main Street (Red House) for the dismantlement of the home. Vehicles are to arrive December 12<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (2) to (4) days.  
Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the vehicle permits with the following conditions:
  - When not in use, lifts must be parked as close to the sidewalk as possible
  - Lifts cannot, at any time, be blocking any fire hydrants in the area
  - Lifts cannot block the driveway to the Island House Hotel
  - While in the lifts, operators must not wear any headgear that would impede them hearing any notification of an emergency vehicle in the areaVoting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge
- Vehicle permit, submitted by Plutchak Crane Rental, to set roof trusses for the Harbour View Inn Housing project located at 7596 7th Street. Crane is set to arrive on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (1) to (3) days.  
Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan to approve the vehicle permit  
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- (3) vehicle and (1) trailer permit, submitted by Franklin Holwerda Co., for work at the Biddle Point Pump Station. Vehicles & trailer are scheduled to arrive on December 16<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (2) to (3) days.

Motion made by Chambers, seconded by Moskwa to approve the vehicle and trailer permits and to waive the fees as this is work for the Department of Public Works.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- (2) vehicle permits, submitted by Belonga Excavating, to haul gravel and backfill a lot on Cedar Point Lane – Gromley. Vehicles are scheduled to arrive the week of December 16<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (1) to (3) days.

Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Chambers, to approve the vehicle permits.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- (4) vehicle permits, submitted by Belonga Excavating, to clear site and excavate for foundation at Forest Bluff Lot #3 – Wenzel. Vehicles are scheduled to arrive the week of December 16<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (1) week.

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Chambers, to approve the vehicle permits.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- Trailer permit, submitted by the Lakeview Hotel, to use a dump trailer for their pool renovation. Trailer will arrive on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will be in use for (8) days.

Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Chambers, to approve the trailer permit.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- Vehicle permit, submitted by Belonga Excavating, for a dumpster at the Jaquiss residence (6948 Main Street) for house demolition. First dumpster will arrive on December 12<sup>th</sup> with further dumpsters arriving over (1) week - expecting roughly 20 dumpsters overall.

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Chambers, to approve the vehicle permit.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- (4) vehicle and (2) trailer permits, submitted by Belonga Excavating, to excavate for power at the Coal Dock. Vehicles and trailers will arrive on December 21<sup>st</sup> and will be in use for (1) to (3) days.

Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Chambers to approve the vehicle and trailer permits and to waive the fees as this is work for Mackinac Island Transportation Authority.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

- (2) vehicle permits, submitted by Mission Point Resort, for propane deliveries. Deliveries will be made on December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the vehicle permits.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

### **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Moskwa, to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 pm.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, St. Onge

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Margaret M. Doud, Mayor

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Danielle Leach, City Clerk