

CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 08, 2025 at 3:00 PM

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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Doud called to order at 3:15 pm

II. Roll Call

PRESENT

Tom Corrigan
Steven Moskwa
Anneke Myers
Alan Sehoyan
Jason St. Onge

Erin Evashevski, City Attorney

Richard Linn, Treasurer

Michael Gruits, Chief of Police

ABSENT

Richard Chambers

IV. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

- Update on an AT&T Right of Way permit from March 2024
 - o Was not able to complete before May 1st, will begin job Monday, January 13th

V. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing, held on December 20, 2024
 - o Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.
- December 20, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
 - o Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- January 8, 2025 Treasurer's Report
 - o Mayor's Assistant Trista France noted the following correction to the report
 - Line item for Mackinac Island Transportation Authority property taxes should be listed for the year 2024, not 2023 as noted.

Mayor Doud stated that the report was to be placed on file with the noted correction.

VII. Approval of Payments for:

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the December 26, 2024 payroll and the January 8th payroll and payables.

Voting Yea: Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

IX. Correspondence

- A legal opinion from the City's attorney, Larry Saylor of Miller Canfield, regarding antitrust matters was presented.
 - o Councilman Moskwa requested such a letter at the last meeting so information could be shared with the public regarding this matter
 - o Mr. Saylor's letter will be posted on the City's website under the City Council page

X. Old Business

- Hoffman Marine to address the City Council regarding ferry boat matters
- Jenny Gezella, Chris Shepler, and Veronica Dobrowolski addressed the council with their concerns about not receiving the \$2.00 price increase as previously requested at the November 13, 2024 regular City Council meeting.
- Councilman Moskwa noted that the Council appreciates the hard work that Hoffman has put in to providing ferry service to Mackinac Island, however the Council does not have an understanding of the full costs as that is not shared with the City. Councilman Moskwa further commented that this is a difficult situation as this is not something the City has encountered before.
- Mayor Doud commented that the City is dealing with a monopoly, and we have to have time to understand how to properly move forward. More time is needed to understand all of the ramifications of what we are all dealing with.

- Discussion of ferry boat regulation
 - o Attorney Evashevski
 - The City has hired GDS Consultants to help move forward with the regulatory process
 - Attorney Evashevski is asking the permission of the Council for herself and attorney Mike Cavanaugh to work with Rich Polich of GDS to gather information to determine fare rates and schedules and to work on the general regulation of the boat companies. Further, she is looking for permission of Hoffman Marine to reach out to their attorney to discuss this process.
 - Ms. Gezella responded that there would be no issue if attorney Evashevski would like to reach out to Hoffman's attorney to discuss further
 - o Ms. Gezella commented that they feel they do not have rates to give to their guests or publish at this time.
 - o Councilman Moskwa commented that the Council wants to ensure that it is affordable for people to come to Mackinac Island
 - o Councilwoman Myers noted that the boat lines do not share any information with the City regarding the numbers they haul or the money they bring in each year

Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Myers, to authorize City attorneys Cavanaugh and Evashevski and Rich Polich of GDS to work on a regulation structure and to, when needed, reach out to Hoffman's attorney to discuss certain portions of this process.

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

Motion made by Corrigan, seconded by Sehoan, to change the regular Council meeting time to 2:00 pm.

- This will begin with the January 22, 2025 regular meeting and will continue until the meeting time changes back to 4:00 pm for the first meeting in May.
- Changing the meeting time will allow more time for those attending and participating in the meetings who need to catch the last boat off the island (currently a 4:00 pm departure).

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

XI. New Business

- Mayor Doud noted the retirements of Brenda Bunker (retired after 45 years at First National Bank) and Don Smith (retired after 25 years with Cloverland Electric)

Motion made by Myers, seconded by Sehoan, to have the City Clerk's office issue a letter of appreciation to both Ms. Bunker & Mr. Smith.

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

- Election Coordination School Agreement
 - o This agreement ensures that all school related elections are held on an even year to keep them in accordance with other regular elections and to not incur additional election expenses.

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by St. Onge, to approve the agreement and authorize the City Clerk to sign it.

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

- Use Permit with the Mackinac Island State Park Commission for the Fort Holmes Radio Tower (emergency services)
 - o Councilman St. Onge questioned if the City had abandoned that tower when they installed a new service tower behind Fire Station One on Market Street
 - Regardless of if the tower was abandoned, still wouldn't hurt to keep the lease in case the Fort Holmes radio tower is needed again in the future

Motion made by Myers, seconded by St. Onge, to approve the Use Agreement for the Fort Holmes radio tower with the Mackinac State Park Commission, and to have the Clerk's office issue the permit payment of \$1.00.

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

- Police Department's request to purchase spare parts for their vehicles from George's Body Shop in St. Ignace, Michigan
 - o Two (2) rims each for the Chevy Tahoe & Dodge Ram, two (2) tires, and two (2) aluminum car jacks – estimate total of \$1,539.34

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the purchase at the estimated cost.

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

- Competitive Event Application, submitted by Mackinac Island Swim, LLC
 - o Event will take place on Sunday, August 10th from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - o Councilman St. Onge noted that he believed the property at the end of the boardwalk where the proposed kayak storage is, is most likely Grand Hotel Property – applicant needs to negotiate permission with the Grand Hotel for this
 - David Jurcak of the Grand Hotel attended the meeting via Zoom and asked the Clerk to send the applicant’s contact information to him so they could discuss this

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the application aside from the kayak storage at the end of the boardwalk.

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

- (2) trailer and (3) vehicle permits, submitted by O’Boyle & Co., for foundation work at the Wenzel residence, Forest Bluff Lot #3.

- o Councilman St. Onge noted that the vehicles and trailers must not block the road

Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the vehicle and trailer permits.

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

- Vehicle permit, submitted by Steve Schunk, to have a John Deere tractor on site for cleanup work at Corner Cottage (7714 Lakeshore Dr). Vehicle will arrive on January 11th and will be in use for 90 days.

Motion made by Sehoan, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the vehicle permit for the requested 90 days as long as the vehicle remains on the specified property.

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

- Vehicle permit, submitted by Franklin Holwerda Co, for work at the Stonebrook Pump Station. Vehicle will arrive on January 12th and will be in use for two (2) to three (3) days.

Motion made by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the vehicle permit and waive fee as this is work for the Department of Public Works.

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

- Vehicle permit, submitted by Windemuller, for continued work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Vehicle permit will be extended until December 31, 2025.

Motion made by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the extended use of the vehicle and to waive the fee as this is work for the Department of Public Works.

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

- Vehicle & trailer permit, submitted by Action Service Group, for welding work on the fire escape stairwell project at the Harbour View Inn, located at 6876 Main Street. Truck and trailer will arrive on January 13th and will be in use for 14 days.

- o Councilman St. Onge requested that the vehicle not be parked on the side streets (Bogan Lane or Church Street)

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the vehicle permit.

- Streets & Right of Way Permits, submitted by AT&T
 - o 7363 Main Street (Murdick’s Fudge) – originally approved March 18, 2024, work being rescheduled with this round of jobs
 - o 2287 Cadotte Ave
 - o 1345 French Ln.
 - o 7559 4th St.
 - o 1432 Bogan Ln.
 - o 5951 M-185 (Water Treatment Plant)
 - o 1623 Fort Street (Trinity Church)

- Work for the above jobs will begin Monday, January 13th and will continue over the next few months.

- As work is utility related, the \$1,000.00 permit fee for each application has been waived, but the \$5,000.00 bond fee per location is still applicable.

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Myers, to approve the Right of Way permits.

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

XII. Miscellaneous / General Council Discussion / Additional Agenda Items

- Councilman Corrigan requested to discuss the newly implemented senior transport cut off time
 - o Understand that this will be discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting next week, but do not want to see this issue be put off for another two (2) weeks
 - o Councilman St. Onge noted that if the Committee and the Police Department are able to reach an agreement at their meeting next week, Mayor Doud could give go ahead enact the change agree to
 - o Councilman Corrigan suggests providing services up to 10:00 pm and not basing transport on location / activity
 - o Chief Gruits noted that he is simply trying to execute the policy that he inherited. Chief Gruits further noted that there is a taxi service with Mackinac Island Carriage Tours that is being under-utilized.
 - The Police Department typically only has one officer on shift after 8:00 pm
- Motion made by Corrigan for the Police Department to provide service until 10:00 pm, seven (7) days per week.
Motion died to lack of support.

Councilman St. Onge made a comment regarding Hoffman coming back to the Council asking for reconsideration of their rate increase

- The rates were frozen and set at the 2024 pricing at the December 11th meeting, the boat companies cannot keep coming back and asking for reconsideration every 2 weeks.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion made by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa, to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 pm.

Voting Yea: Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

Margaret M. Doud, Mayor

Danielle Leach, City Clerk