

**CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 4:00 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 4:00 pm

Mayor Doud introduced new Trooper Gary Flemming

Mayor Doud requested to set a Special City Council meeting to continue discussions with Officer Gruits in regards to his application for the Chief of Police position.

- The Public Safety Committee has interviewed Officer Gruits already and it went very well
- Motion by Moskwa, seconded by Chambers, to set a Special City Council meeting to interview Officer Gruits for the Chief of Police position.

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

- Mayor's Assistant Trista France will inform Officer Gruits of the meeting date & time

Mayor Doud announced her 2024 Appointments

- Added Pete Olson & Shannon Schueller to the Historic District Commission, bringing the Commission up to seven (7) members
- Added Jack Stack to the IT Committee
- Left Brian Bailey on the Traffic Control Committee & added him to the Mackinac Island Transportation Authority to replace Bob Brown who is retiring

Motion by Myers, Seconded by Moskwa, to accept Mayor Doud's 2024 appointments

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

Motion by Corrigan, seconded by Moskwa to appoint Councilwoman Myers as Mayor ProTem

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

**II. Roll Call**

Richard Chambers  
Tom Corrigan  
Steven Moskwa  
Anneke Myers  
Alan Sehoyan

Jason St. Onge  
Rick Linn, Treasurer  
Doug Topolski, Chief of Police  
Erin Evashevski, Attorney  
Via Zoom in St. Ignace, MI

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting, held on May 23, 2024
  - Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.
- Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting, held on May 15, 2024
  - Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.

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

May 30, 2024 Treasurer's Report

Motion by Moskwa, Seconded by Corrigan, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

**VI. Approval of Payments for:**

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Corrigan, to pay the payroll & payables as presented, with the Bacco Construction Company bill to be broken down as follows:

- Capital Funds for Road Improvements - \$296,000.00
- Pickleball Court – Recreation grant funded - \$35,000.00

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

**VII. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda**

Motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Chambers, to accept the agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan

**IX. Correspondence**

Email from Amanda Wyse & Tess Miller regarding Star Line tickets

- Tess Miller was online to address the Council
- Have owned a seasonal home on Mackinac for 27 years (Trillium)
- On October 16, 2023 Ms. Miller purchased tickets for her family for the upcoming season

- Ms. Miller was informed that she could not purchase a resident pass, but could purchase commuter tickets as a homeowner, and was assured that the tickets could be used during the 2024 season
  - On their first trip in May 2024, Ms. Miller was informed that the tickets were not valid, and the tickets were confiscated by the ticket taker
  - Mackinac Island Ferry Company has refused to refund or credit for the tickets purchased in October 2023
  - Ms. Miller stated that she feels that policies are going unchecked and that things like this could eventually affect Island residents
  - Councilman Corrigan commented that he knows many others who have been put in this same position of being told tickets can be exchanged the following season but then are unable to do so – feels that this is fraudulent
    - Mackinac Island Ferry Company is also still demanding an Island driver license to obtain resident passes, which goes against the Winter Service Contract
  - Jerry Fetty of Mackinac Island Ferry Company (MIFC) apologized for the rudeness of the employees that Ms. Miller dealt with, and noted that this is not their policy
    - Employees are to clearly communicate that the commuter tickets expire, and that there is an affidavit r those who purchase commuter tickets
    - Commuter tickets are intended for workers traveling to and from the island for work, not those who live on the island for any period of time
      - Would recommend purchasing regular tickets or non-resident season pass
    - Councilman Corrigan noted that Ms. Miller stated that she did not sign an affidavit upon purchasing the commuter tickets
    - City Attorney Erin Evashevski noted that she purchased commuter tickets on October 29, 2023 and was told that the tickets would not expire, regardless of the expiration date printed on the tickets, and that she also did not sign an affidavit
    - Councilman Moskwa noted that he had purchase commuter tickets before and has signed the affidavit. Sounds like there is some inconsistencies going on. Why can't this be handled normally?
      - Councilman Moskwa inquired if MIFC will be rectifying this issue?
      - Mr. Fetty stated that MIFC would rectify Ms. Miller's issue
    - Councilman Corrigan commented that two (2) years ago Mr. Fetty addressed the Council and stated that MIFC would roll over commuter tickets to the following season
      - Mr. Fetty stated that this was only during COVID
  - Councilwoman Myers stated that she is concerned about the fact that island residents in this scheme are only able to purchase a resident pass, but there many residents who don't qualify for the pass that are now not able to purchase any type of discounted tickets. Residents are not allowed to purchase the commuter tickets for visiting family. Now understanding that the new policy is that a purchaser has to have a "registered" business on the Island to purchase the commuter tickets - this needs to be discussed further.
    - Mr. Fetty stated that this policy has been going on for (6) years, maybe in the future there is a way to do something like Shepler's where a card could be offered for a certain number of "rides"
    - Councilwoman Myers stated that Shepler's does not have an expiration date on their tickets
      - Mr. Fetty noted that when he started at MIFC 11 years ago, they started putting expiration dates on their tickets because Shepler was doing it
- Mayor Doud stated that this needs to be further discussed.

## **X. Old Business**

Councilwoman Myers shared that the housing study has been distributed - any questions please forward them to Trista

## **XI. New Business**

a.) A letter was received from Fire Department Chief Jason St. Onge regarding the Twilight fire Mayor Doud suggested that this be referred to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion

Motion made by Corrigan, Seconded by Moskwa, to send the letter to the Public Safety Committee.

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

b.) Discussion with Mackinac Island Ferry Co. regarding Bicycle Transportation Policy

- Councilwoman Myers noted that the Council approved the rates and fees this spring, but were not aware of the change in policy regarding the charging of island residents for the transportation of their licensed bikes.
  - Received clarification on many other fees, but never made aware of the policy change in this charge
- Mr. Fetty noted that he submitted a letter on April 30, 2024 regarding MIFC's policy regarding bicycle transportation
  - MIFC does not charge for the bike license itself if the bike already has an up to date City of Mackinac Island bike license, but they do charge for the transportation of the bike
  - Councilwoman Myers noted that the letter says that this is an updated policy - so something has changed.
  - Mr. Fetty responded that this has been a policy but not enforced, it has been a courtesy to not charge for the bike transportation
  - Councilwoman Myers stated that, regardless, this is a change in policy, and the City was not made aware of this. This is new to the City and the customers - residents and commuters alike
    - Residents are not "frequent visitors" they live here and use their bikes for transportation.
    - It is easy enough to check if the bike has a city license and if the person bringing the bike on the boat has an Island Resident pass.
    - Asking that MIFC continues to extend the "courtesy" of not charging island residents for the transportation of their bikes
      - Mr. Fetty stated that MIFC would be happy to do this for Island residents
      - Councilwoman Myers asked that MIFC considers extending the same courtesy to the commuters as well
    - Councilman Corrigan commented that if the commuters (who are mostly contractors) are denied the same courtesy, they will turn around up their charges for work on the island. Fees should be considered as additional costs to do business.
    - Mr. Fetty noted that he has spoken to some commuters about purchasing an annual pass for their bikes
      - Councilwoman Myers inquired if MIFC would consider doing this sooner rather than later. This was a policy that commuters were not made aware of and they are spending a significant amount of money to transport their bikes
      - Mr. Fetty noted that he has spoken with many commuters and has suggested leaving their bikes on the island overnight. Have offered to "donate" abandoned bikes to some commuters so they can have a bike on each side.

Mayor Doud stated that the request was for MIFC to allow residents who have a license on their bike and an island resident pass, that they not be charged for the transportation of their bike. As for commuters, to work out an annual pass or ticket for the transportation of their bike.

c.) Request for approval to schedule the 2024 Truth in Taxation Hearing

- City Assessor Joe Stakoe requested to schedule the meeting for June 12, 2024 at 3:45
- Motion made by Corrigan, Seconded by Moskwa, to set the 2024 Truth in Taxation Hearing for Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 3:45 pm.  
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoan

d.) Discussion and / or action regarding chimney repairs at the public Library

- A quote was received from All-Chimney Sweeping & Maintenance for \$5,223.00
- Library's dedicated account has a balance of \$17,193.00, and they would like to pay for the repairs out of this fund as repairs were not budgeted

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the chimney repairs at the library, and to have the payment issued from the Library dedicated account 1.005.

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

- e.) Police Department request to purchase Lenslock brand body-worn cameras
- Chief Topolski obtained three (3) bids from Axon, Motorola, and Lenslock
  - The Mackinaw City Police Department uses the Lenslock brand cameras and are very happy with the product, plus the cost is significantly less
  - Total price is \$28,764.00, paid out over 5 years for \$5,752.80 per year
  - No trade in for the old cameras

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the Police Department's purchase of Lenslock brand body-worn cameras for \$28,764.00 to be paid out over a five (5) year period.

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

- f.) Police Department request to purchase a new desktop for the booking & fingerprinting machine
- Recommended to purchase a new computer as the current one is at the end of its life
  - Not positive if this was a budgeted item - Trista will need to check
  - Already have the software needed, just needs to be transferred to the new computer

Motion made by Sehoyan, Seconded by Myers, to approve the purchase of a new dell desktop computer in the amount of \$1,396.20 for the Police Department's booking and fingerprinting machine.

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

- g.) Mackinac Island Swim request for the finish line banner at Mission Point Resort

- Mark Ware of Mission Point noted that this was the same request as the last few years
- Councilman Moskwa commented that the banner was quite large (8 ft tall by 10 ft wide), and inquired if there was an increase in size?
  - Mr. Ware responded that he believes it is the same as previous year

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Sehoyan to approve the Mackinac Island Swim finish line banner request.

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

- h.) Discussion of free rent or the purchase of boat passes for seasonal police officers

- Chief Topolski informed the Council that there are (2) seasonal officers coming
  - One is planning to commute and inquired if the City purchases boat passes for employees. Could potentially be a year-round officer
- Mayor Doud suggested referring this to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion

Motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Corrigan, to refer the discussion to the Public Safety Committee.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan

- i.) Maintenance Department request to purchase a new sand spreader

- Budgeted item

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the purchase

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

- j.) Maintenance Department request to purchase various tools and equipment

- Replacement backpack blower for cemetery, weed whips, and other various items.

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the purchase.

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

- k.) (2) vehicle permits for Bacco Construction Co. to lay new gravel on Park Ave. and Lakeview Blvd. in the Annex

- Councilman St. Onge reminded the Council that he had encouraged the City to obtain quotes from Belonga Excavating and Darrow Excavating, but it looks like Bacco is subcontracting Belonga Excavating anyways
- Dennis Dombroski noted that both Chad and Larry Belonga said they do not have time or personnel to complete this job. Belonga also does not have the correct grader attachment for their skid steer, but Bacco does
- Contract approving the scope of work and the price was signed with Bacco at the Special Council Meeting held on May 23, 2024.
- Materials will be hauled by Belonga Excavating, which was included in the overall price from Bacco

Motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Myers, to approve the vehicle permits and to waive the fees.

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

l.) (2) vehicle permits for Mission Point Resort - June propane deliveries

Motion by St. Onge, Seconded by Chambers, to approve the vehicle permits.

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

m.) 76th Annual Lilac Festival

- Steph Castelein of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau noted that the only change from last year is the request for a banner at the Stuart House during the West Michigan Bootscooters event on Market Street – the banner will only be up during the event.

Motion made by Sehoyan, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the following for the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Lilac Festival:

- (2) banners to hang at the Tourism Bureau building on Main Street during the festival (June 7<sup>th</sup> – June 16<sup>th</sup>) – Dennis Dombroski ok'd
- (1) banner to hang at the Stuart House on Market Street during the West Michigan Bootscooters event on Friday, June 8, 2024 – Dennis Dombroski ok'd
  - Councilman St. Onge asked that the banner information be sent to the various horse companies
    - Steph Castelein noted that she had already spoken with Carriage Tours and Gough Livery
- (4) trailer and (4) vehicle permits for Anvil Acers to haul horses, food, carriage, and materials
- Events at Windermere Point
- Events at Marquette Park
- Police Assistance for street closures and vehicle escorts
  - Steph Castelein has spoken with the Police Department and emergency services regarding this
- Parade Permit for the 76<sup>th</sup> annual Lilac Festival Grand Parade on June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Event Permit for the West Michigan Bootscooters on June 8<sup>th</sup>

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

w. Application for a Renewal Business License for Point of View Gallery

Motion made by Corrigan, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the business license application.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan

x. Application for a New Business License for Sip n' Sail (new owners)

Motion made by Chambers, Seconded by Sehoyan, to approve the business license application.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan

y. Annual vehicle permit for the Inn at Stonecliffe

- Replacing the current ditchwitch with an Avant 760
- Would like to get a road grader attachment for the upkeep of roads at The Inn at Stonecliffe, Manor V, and Greenshed
- Councilman St. Onge noted that “road maintenance” can become a vague statement with all (3) locations. If the vehicle is just for maintaining roads, that's one thing, but need to be clear that this can't be used to spread dirt in one location or unload materials in another
- Ben Horn of Stonecliffe noted that if the vehicle is needed for things other than road maintenance, then that can be discussed at a different time, but that is not the initial intent.
- Councilwoman Myers inquired that, if the vehicle was approved for use at one of the other locations, what would be good times for use?
  - Councilman St. Onge & Sehoyan noted that school restriction times need to be adhered to
  - When doing road maintenance related work, work must be completed by 7:30 am and Stonecliffe will notify the Police Department of where and when they will be doing the work

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Sehoyan to approve the annual vehicle permit and to allow the use of the new vehicle for road maintenance at The Inn at Stonecliffe, Manor V, and Greenshed, but for any other jobs Stonecliffe needs to report back to the Council. Vehicle can also be used at the Inn at Stonecliffe property as needed for what has been authorized in the past.

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

- Tom Sullivan of Sunset Forest Association (SFA) noted that issuing permits during the summer to do road work is a “slippery slope”

Stonecliffe Annual Vehicle Permit cont.

- Also noted that SFA and the City have still not been able to meet to discuss a road maintenance agreement
    - Mayor's Assistant Trist France noted that the meeting is set to be scheduled but need to wait for Attorney Evashevski to return from Maternity Leave
  - Mr. Sullivan urged the City not to approve the request to use the vehicle for road maintenance until the Street Committee meets to discuss the maintenance of Forest Way
  - Councilwoman Myers commented that it seems like at this point, Stonecliffe is offering to maintain their portions of the road. This does not shut down the conversation of the overall road maintenance discussion with SFA
  - Councilman St. Onge noted that he understood what Mr. Sullivan is saying, but the City does not have the facilities to maintain the roads through our own employees. Do not think that this will be a daily or weekly thing, but sounds like a good idea overall
- z. (3) vehicle permits for Belonga Excavating to haul gravel for the Annex roads project
- Dennis Bradley will assist with escorts
  - Trucking should take place during first (2) to (3) days, then work should be condensed to the Annex until vehicles leave

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Sehoyan, to approve the vehicle permits and waive the fees.

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

**XIII. Miscellaneous / General Council Discussion / Additional Agenda Items**

**New Business**

- Councilman Corrigan commented that the new arcade on Market Street is very visible from the street.
    - The City does not allow neon lighting on signage
    - A complaint was received from the Metivier Inn
    - Councilwoman Myers noted that the City's Sign Ordinance states no neon signs – Davidson Hotels needs to look in to this issue
    - Councilman Moskwa noted that others have complained about loud noises at night from the arcade
  - Recreation Director Dr. Mary Patay informed the Council that the Pickle ball court will not be finalized until August due to the construction company having other projects.
    - Will only need (4) days to complete the courts, so hoping some other projects fall through and the work can be completed sooner than August.
    - One court is up now and hoping to get lines down on the other
    - Courts are still usable, just not super fancy yet
  - Don Hinman, resident of the East Bluff
    - Voiced concerns about Mackinac Island Ferry Company (MIFC) charging Island residents to transport their bikes
    - Have experienced issues the last few years trying to obtain a resident pass or commuter tickets
    - Mayor Doud noted that the City is working on these issues – this is an ongoing situation that the City is working through with MIFC
- aa. Motion by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to enter in to closed session at 5:23 pm to discuss the following confidential attorney / client written opinions regarding electric bikes and Mackinac Island Ferry Company lawsuit
- Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

Motion by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to leave closed session at 6:21 pm.

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

Motion by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to enter in to open session at 6:21 pm.

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

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Sehoyan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm.

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