

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Pictured above (left to right)

Front Row: Assistant City Manager Jen LePage and Executive Assistant Wendy Larson

Back Row: City Manager Mike Angeli and Management Analyst Sean Hobbins



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with Section 2-80 of the City Code, listed below is a summary of activities for the Executive Department for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Department Overview

The City Manager serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the City government, enforces all laws and ordinances adopted by the City Commission, recommends an annual budget and provides counsel and support to the City Commission on all issues affecting city residents.

The Manager's Office has recently saw a transition, as City Manager William Vajda resigned effective October 5, 2015 to pursue other opportunities. Bill, a Marquette native, had been with the City for five years.

At its October 13, 2015 meeting, the City Commission appointed L. Michael Angeli as the new Marquette City Manager. Mike had been serving as Acting City Manager since September 9, 2015, following the resignation of City Manager Bill Vajda. Mike has worked for the City for 39 years, the last seven as its Chief of Police. Mike retired as the Chief of Police on Friday, October 16, 2015 and his appointment as City Manager became effective Monday, October 19, 2015.

Events

- *U.P. Managers Meeting:* The Upper Peninsula Local Government Managers Association (UPLGMA) is a group of municipal leaders from the Upper Peninsula that collaborate on regional issues to share ideas, gain support from local elected leaders and help identify ways to make a stronger and more effective Upper Peninsula. The UPLGMA is made up of 26 cities and villages in the Upper Peninsula. As Chairperson of "Team U.P.," City Manager Bill Vajda and his staff coordinated the spring and fall 2015 meetings in the City of Munising and Menominee, respectively. Specific information on the meetings can be found on <http://uplgma.org>.



Greater Transparency and Open Communication for Residents and Taxpayers

- Community Office Hours: The City Manager hosts monthly office hours at the Peter White Public Library. These two-hour open sessions provide residents, employees and Commissioners the opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns, or to make suggestions regarding any City interests. More than 30 individuals attended the Manager's Community Office Hours during the fiscal year.
- 24-Hour-Response: Over 24 informational requests were completed during the fiscal year through resident contact.
- Commission Resident Advocates: Commissioners are appointed by the City Manager to serve as resident advocates to citizens requiring specific information in regards to a specific project, City activity, or concern. The Commissioners then receive all responses associated with any of these contacts from the City Manager as updates become available.
- City Open House: The fifth annual City Open House was hosted at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library, in February. More than 200 individuals attended this year's event. The Open House is an opportunity for the community to meet City Commissioners and City partners. Participants included all City Departments, the Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, the Marquette Board of Light and Power, Associated Students of Northern Michigan University, Marquette Senior High School Student Robotics Team, and many more partner and civic organizations.
- Meetings with Northern Michigan University (NMU) Students: The City continued its outreach to the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University (ASNMU), as well as conducted meetings with other NMU students, faculty, and staff, including hosting interns selected from the NMU Masters of Public Administration program.
- Let's Chat: Northern Michigan University President Fritz Erickson and Marquette City Manager Bill Vajda hosted a Let's Chat at Northern Michigan University. The meeting was to provide students with an opportunity to ask questions of the President and City Manager, for students to discuss concerns and ideas for Northern Michigan University and City of Marquette, and to provide the President and City Manager an opportunity to address the student body.
- Art in City Hall: City Hall Art Galleries ("The People's Gallery," the "City Manager's Suite" and the "City Walls of Art") continued strong support for public art with the display of regional artists in City Hall. The Marquette Arts and Culture Center works with artists to schedule a display of art on a rotating basis. Viewing times are during normal operating hours, and information for aficionados is provided should visitors wish to purchase their favorites.

- *City Hall Show Case:* The show case, located outside of Commission Chambers and the City Manager's Office, offers a view of products from local Marquette businesses. These products are often locally produced and are lent to the City for quarterly periods. The show case has so far featured more than 30 individual items from Donckers, Art of Framing, Ore Dock, Casualties, RTI Surgical, Beth Milner Jewelry, and the Peter White Library.
- *MSHS Student Council:* This past year marked the fourth consecutive year that the City of Marquette and Marquette Senior High School Student Council continued our relationship. For the second consecutive year, the City Commission appointed Student Council members as ex officio members of Marquette advisory committees. The Marquette City Commission and City Manager hosted Marquette Senior High School Student Council members during a live City Commission meeting for the third consecutive year. Prior to the meeting, City officials held an orientation, a tour of Commission Chambers and a question-and-answer session. The students then sat side-saddle with the Commissioners during the February 23, 2015 Regular City Commission meeting (pictured below).



- *Committee Orientation Sessions:* The City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk conducted three committee orientation sessions for roughly 30 new volunteer members of authorities, boards and committees. These sessions provide incoming volunteers with a framework of basic information needed for effective participation in City government.
- *Radio Interviews:* In order to ensure all opportunities are taken to inform residents and taxpayers of issues before the City Commission, the City Manager provides a preview through the "Walt and Mike in the Morning" show at *Great Lakes Radio* and "Mornings in Marquette with the Fat Man" at *The Point*. The interviews, which can be heard live on 101.9 FM and 100.3 FM, update the public on scheduled agenda items, government processes and opportunities for residents (and non-residents alike) to participate in City government.
- *Marquette Matters:* *Marquette Matters* is a bimonthly publication created and distributed by the City Manager's Office in both hard copy and online formats. The subscriber list for the online edition continues to grow, and each edition includes focus articles regarding various issues before the City, as well as a column which provides an opportunity for the City Manager and other various administrative staff members to share candid information and visions directly with community members and interested readers throughout the country.

- *Letters to Donors and Organizations:* The City Manager sends thank you notes to local area organizations for their generosity on behalf of the Marquette community. Reports of these efforts are collected through the local news media, and this year 70 letters were gratefully forwarded for these acts of compassion and kindness.
- *Regular Meetings with State Officials:* City Officials held quarterly meetings with elected federal and state officials and their representatives to discuss and provide input to current issues and updates facing the City.
- *Media Attention:* As a top destination for recreation and retirement and as a top city to raise a family, the City of Marquette is routinely in the national news. Unsurprisingly, the City's Landmark Inn was featured during a travel segment on the *Today Show*. The City and the region also received widespread attention due to the myriad energy issues related to the Upper Peninsula. Stories on the topic ran in the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Milwaukee Journal*, *Midwest Energy News*, the *National Law Review*, *Crain's Business*, *Platt's* and *National Public Radio*.

Manager Communications

- *Agenda Coordination:* The City Manager, along with the Mayor and two Commissioners, review upcoming agendas prior to publishing a meeting agenda. The Manager then submits a brief of the meeting to the Commission.
- *Commission Meetings:* Total Number of Commission meetings supported (regular, special, work sessions, joint): 52
- *Public Service Announcements:* Total number of public service announcements approved during the reporting period: 317

Economic Development

- *Local Brownfield Development Coordination:* The City remained a supportive partner with the Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and provided active coordination and support to a number of new and existing developments within the City, including the Liberty Way development, Founders Landing, the Nestledown Bed and Breakfast, Duke LifePoint/UP Health System replacement hospital and consideration for other proposed projects and activities. The Brownfield Plan for UP Health System's proposed new acute-care hospital includes \$4 million in environmental activities, \$3.5 million in demolition and site preparation and \$31.7 million in infrastructure improvements that will serve the hospital and the community. The project will significantly add to the local and state tax base. When completed, property taxes are estimated to total over \$6.1 million per year (following the retirement of Brownfield obligations) with over 47.5% of these revenues going to the State of Michigan and 52.5% to local taxing jurisdictions. The eligible property is currently owned by the City of Marquette and generates no property taxes.

- Recycling:** The City of Marquette continued its partnership with the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA), wherein the City delivers its recyclable materials – collected through weekly residential curbside collection – to the Authority facilities in Sands Township. From there, the Authority processes the materials and gets the recyclables to market. The net revenue (the revenue remaining after the MCSWMA’s costs for processing and distribution) is then split, with 60 percent going to the City and 40 percent remaining with the Authority. According to Authority data from the year, the City’s 60 percent share has equated to roughly \$9 per ton of recyclable materials, down from \$12/ton last year.

Management Analysis

- The charts below detail the Marquette City Commission’s average monthly accounts payable amounts for a four-year period and a comparison of the number of consent items to new business items per meeting over the course of 2015. The amount of accounts payable can be seen to be consistent over the year with an annual deviation occurring after tax collection and subsequent fund distribution. The comparison of consent to new business items shows the general length of Commission meetings (excluding appointments, public hearings, and presentations) and the efficiency gained by using the consent agenda process.

