

CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Dud called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

II. Roll Call

PRESENT

- Richard Chambers
- Tom Corrigan
- Anneke Myers
- Lindsey White
- Jason St. Onge

ABSENT

- Steven Moskwa
- Kaitlynn Bazinau, City Treasurer

IV. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Myers, seconded by White, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

VI. New Business

- Motion made by St. Onge, Seconded by White, to enter in to closed session at 2:08 pm to discuss ongoing litigation and a written, privileged and confidential attorney opinion.
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

- Motion by Chambers, seconded by Corrigan, to leave closed session at 3:38 pm
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

- Motion by White, seconded by Chambers, to enter in to open session at 3:38 pm
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

- Motion made by St. Onge, seconded by Chambers, to adopt City of Mackinac Island Resolution No. 26-004, as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND
CLARIFYING AND REASSERTING FINDINGS MADE IN THE DECEMBER 11, 2024
RESOLUTION 24-004.

Whereas, the Mackinac Island City Council adopted Resolution 24-004 at its regular meeting on or about December 11, 2024, and

Whereas, the City made certain findings laid out in Resolution 24-004, including but not limited to: “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,” and

Whereas, the City believed its findings and intentions were clear, but determines now that clarification of its findings would be appropriate.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Resolution 24-004 is amended nunc pro tunc to clarify its findings and declarations as follows:

1. The reference to “monopoly situation” in the Resolution 24-004 represented a finding that there is no competition in ferry boat service to and from Mackinac Island because the two remaining ferry boat companies serving Mackinac Island are under common ownership and control. Facts supporting this finding include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Hoffmann Family of Companies, as the parent owner of all ferry boat companies providing service to and from the City, is the sole provider of ferry boat service to and from Mackinac Island, and further owns and/or controls of all ferry boat docks on Mackinac Island.
 - b. Shepler’s CEO, Chris Shepler, acts or has acted as the chief operating officer of both Hoffmann-owned Ferry Companies. On at least one occasion at a Mackinac Island City Council meeting, Chris Shepler acted as an executive of both ferry companies at the same time.
 - c. Both Shepler’s and MIFC/Arnold report to Jenny Gezella, CEO of Hoffmann Marine, a division of the Hoffmann Family of Companies.

City of Mackinac Island Resolution No. 26-004, Cont.

- d. At the December 11, 2024 meeting, and at meetings prior, Jenny Gezella and Chris Shepler have appeared together and spoken on behalf of both MIFC/Arnold and Shepler's in dealing with City officials on rates and operational matters.
- e. Representatives of the ferry boat companies have made it clear to the City, and in statements to the public, that the ferry boat companies are all one company under ownership of the Hoffmann Family of Companies.
- f. When Hoffmann Family of Companies requested the temporary shutdown of MIFC in August of 2024, Chris Shepler and Jenny Gezella assured the City that, because the companies were commonly owed, there would be no issue with all passengers with MIFC tickets being transported by Shepler's Ferry.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City, as the governing body and regulatory authority, finds that under Section 9 of the Ferry Boat Franchise Ordinances, no competition was found to exist in ferry boat service to and from the City when Resolution 24-004 was adopted on December 11, 2024; no competition in ferry boat service to and from the City exists on today's date; and no competition in ferry boat service to and from the City has existed at any time between December 11, 2024 and today, and, therefore, the City has, and as of December 11, 2024 has had, the right to assert its jurisdiction over schedules and fares of the ferry boat companies.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion made by Myers, seconded by White, to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 pm.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Myers, White, St. Onge

Margaret M. Doud, Mayor

Danielle Leach, City Clerk