

**CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND  
MINUTES  
ANNUAL BIKE LICENSE HEARING**

**Wednesday, March 06, 2024 at 2:30 PM**

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

---

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Doud called the hearing to order at 2:30 pm

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**V. Correspondence**

- a. Request Letter from Rosaline Development
  - Only asking for 2 additional bikes. Transportation has been hard in the Stonecliffe area, and don't see it getting better.
  - Does not want to be lumped in with those who rent bikes for a living, as this is not the same business. Rosalina's commercial bikes are included as an accommodation with our room rentals.
  - If awarded new licenses, they cannot be sold or transferred. If the business sold or dissolved, all licenses would be given back to the City.
- b. Request Letter from Harbour View Inn
  - Requesting to retain their regular 35 licenses.
- c. Request Letter from Mackinac Island Bikes
  - Currently have 319 commercial rental bike licenses.
  - If 50 additional licenses were approved to be prorated throughout the commercial bike rentals, Mackinac Island Bikes would receive 10 of those
  - More bikes are needed to serve guests
  - Confident that electric bikes (if rentable) can be governed, which would help control the electric bike use on the Island. This would also help with handicapped or people with mobility issues looking to rent something. If commercial electric bike license are issued, there should be a very limited number.
- d. Request letter from Mackinac Wheels & Mackinac Bike Barn
  - Still encountering issues with people not being able to get bikes as the rentals are sold out by mid-morning, which results in tourists bringing their own bikes the following year. This issue adds to the number of bikes and the congestion on the island.
  - Electric bike issue - more of them are coming year after year. Possibly form a committee to discuss this idea to get ahead of the process.
- e. Request letter from Mackinac Cycle
  - If additional licenses are issued, they should be on a prorated basis.
  - Perhaps there are some operations that are not looking for additional licenses, and those licenses could be left in the pool for the locations that are requesting more.
  - Trying to keep up with demand and meet guest needs.
- f. Request letter from Inn at Stonecliffe
  - Requesting 39 licenses in addition to the 42 they already hold.
  - Inn at Stonecliffe is the farthest hotel from town, and it can be hard for guests to get to the property.
  - It can set a bad precedent with guests when they arrive and the Inn is out of bikes.
  - Hotel needs to provide other forms of transportation to their guests besides the hotel shuttle.
  - Have constructed a new bike pavilion as part of their renovations, providing plenty of adequate storage for current and possibly additional rental bikes.

**VI. New Business**

- a. 2024 DRAFT Rental Bike License Ordinance
  - Currently have 1511 commercial bike licenses issued.

- b. Discussion regarding the transfer of rental bike licenses – Harbour View Inn
  - Harbour View Inn is being sold to new owners, so current license will need to be transferred to the new owner.
  - Before discussing the transfer further, Attorney Evashevski & the Treasurer will research the conditions Harbour View’s licenses were issued under originally.

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

- Councilman Corrigan
  - o Sympathetic to Mr. St. Onge with Rosalina Development and the Inn at Stonecliffe for due to their locations farther out of town.
  - o Does not think the down town businesses need to be issued any more licenses.
- Councilman Chambers
  - o Bottleneck is in the down town area. Any new licenses issued should be to the applying businesses that are located out of town.
  - o Regarding electric bike rentals – this could give the City more control over types of electric bikes used on the island and possibly limit the number of electric bikes coming to the island.
- Councilman Bailey
  - o Inquired if the issue of pro-rated license sent to committee for discussion some time back.
    - Councilwoman Myers noted that this issue was referred to committee for discussion.
    - The Treasurer and Mayor's Assistant were tasked with looking into this. Treasurer was charged with finding the percentage of licenses issued to each bike rental. Not able to conclude and come up with a recommendation in time for this hearing
  - o In favor of more bike licenses.
  - o There are plenty of bikes in town, and a large demand from the bike rentals. Don't have an issue with more issuing more licenses in town as they are mostly going out of town and when returning to town they are being returned to the bike rental, and not so much contributing to the congestion. Maybe more rental licenses will help elevate number of bikes being brought to the island by tourists.
- Councilwoman Myers noted that while working on the Master Plan, and many of the complaints are in regard to congestion. Not sure how to address that.
- How do we factor out how much rental bikes contribute to overall congestion vs. regular bikes and horses.
- Understand why the businesses want more license, but need to find a logical way to distribute them
  - o Councilman Bailey inquired if any license holders have recently relinquished their license back to the City
    - Councilwoman Myers & Mayor Doud both stated that no rental licenses have been relinquished back to the City in many years
    - Windermere and Chippewa hotels both turned in their rental licenses, but that was many, many years ago
- Ira Green of Mackinac Island Bikes noted that rental licenses are awarded on behalf of the public trust. The main need for more licenses is in the downtown area. Licenses have evolved in the locations where they are needed the most. Licenses in town are for transportation and guests.
- Jason St. Onge of Rosalina Development noted that when he first came for his original 6 licenses, Andy McGreevy stated that the "Council is here to help the locals" - would like that that is taken into consideration again, as he is only asking for 2 additional licenses.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion by Myers, second to the motion by Bailey, to adjourn the hearing at 2:55 pm.