

MAY 7, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MUNISING CITY COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Munising, Michigan, Telephone 906-387-2095, will begin in the Commission Meeting Room, 301 E. Superior St. at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

Sue E. Roberts, City Clerk

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL
- B. PRESENTATION WATER RATE EVALUATION
- C. RESCHEDULE MAY 12, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING
- D. PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 MINUTE LIMIT)
- E. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

CITY COMMISSION

Official Proceedings

- A. CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The special meeting of the City Commission was duly called and held on Thursday, **May 7, 2026**, in the City Commission meeting room of City Hall. Mayor Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Wilkinson, Desjardins, Burge, Prunick and Mayor Berry
ABSENT: None

- B. PRESENTATION WATER RATE EVALUATION

City Manager Harrison gave a presentation on the water rate evaluation. This went through and explained the make-up of the water bill. Covered were the operation costs, fund debt payments, emergency repairs and the need for reserve monies for repair and replacement/improvements. Harrison also covered areas that she felt we were doing well like operational reserves, debt reserves, emergency capital reserves. She also indicated that the repair/replace/improvement reserves needs help and that this amount depends on different projects that would need to be completed to keep our system functioning properly. Harrison then explained the recommended rate increase for the water side of the utility bill.

John Madigan 831 W. Munising Ave. asked about the 2025 audit and what the following consist of: depreciation which is not funded, revenue, services, equipment rentals, administration, other services and 2.3 million net position and transfers out. City Manager Harrison stated that she can get the information for Madigan.

Kim Graves 1454 Nestor St. asked about the 1030 homes, which is actually customers not homes. All customers were combined in that total only around 800 of those are residential. Graves also asked about the rates charged. All rates are the same for all customers unless you are out of the City limits. Graves also asked about the service charge. It was explained that the service charges are based on the meter size and that this is a ready to use/serve charge. When she is away for 3 or 4 months the fees help to cover the maintenance of the distribution system, fire coverage and yes the Water Department wages (Red). Graves then asked about cellular reads and was told that yes cellular reads can be installed. Last she asked about the water at times being murky and not good. Ryan Anderson informed her that was due to flushing fire hydrants and that customers are asked to run their water until it is free of sediment.

Ruth Ann Pokela 1017 Foster St. indicated that because it was a power point presentation that it would have been nice for the audience to also have a handout. The power point will be placed on the City's webpage.

Cassy Steinhoff 905 W. Munising Ave. asked about the average water usage. She felt that there were more than 2 people per household. City Manager Harrison indicated on her chart that there were examples of higher numbers of people in the home and the cost for such.

Melissa Morton 312 Elm Ave. asked about the bill breakdown it was explained and that there are no percentages used in the chart just actual costs.

Brianna Jorgenson 518 Prospect St. felt that there were about 90% of town with more than 2 people per household.

Zack Eckert 931 W. Munising Ave. stated that he had no idea how many gallons of water he uses but looks at the dollar amount. It was explained that the calculation of the bills is based on meter size and usage.

Bill Savage 402 W. Onota St. asked about the increase and what has it been in the past. It was explained that yes every year the water rate was raised by the CPI inflation rate of 4.3% and now due to projects, bonds and a rate study done this year, not every year that the City is legally bound to charge a certain percent to cover costs. Also explained was that fact that back in 2000 the City did not meet the required amount needed to cover costs and the State mandated the rate increase.

Zack Eckert asked if there was any other way the reserves could be funded. It was explained that typically that is covered by the user fees due to it being an enterprise fund.

Ron Kleiman the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor stated that the City is always applying for grants for whatever projects we have going on.

C. RESCHEDULE MAY 12, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Berry stated that the next Special Meeting regarding the water rate increase would be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 MINUTE LIMIT)

Becky Johnson N6976 Chapel Dr. (owner of 4 properties in the City) stated that her water bills seem high and with the school's millage passing they would have to start passing the cost on to their renters. She also asked why the bills in Munising were so much higher than in Houghton Michigan because she pays lots more in Munising than she does in Houghton.

Cassy Steinhoff 905 W. Munising Ave. asked about the equipment rentals and if the City could find a way to get a break on the rentals to create a savings for the water fund.

John Maddigan asked for a breakdown on the budget, the budget is online and it has all the breakdowns of the expenses.

Commissioner Desjardins made comment that back in his parent's day's people didn't get loans and such it was pay as you go so for many years the City's infrastructure wasn't touched and started deteriorating. In 2007 the City had to go for 13 million dollar bond/loan to redo about 75% of the City's infrastructure. Currently we are trying to prepare and save for upcoming projects, repairs and maintenance and prices have increased exponentially.

E. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

Moved by Commissioner Burge to adjourn the special meeting of the City Commission. Support by Commissioner Desjardins.

Approved: Yeas: Commissioners: Wilkinson, Desjardins, Burge, Prunick and Mayor Berry
Nays: None

The special meeting of the City Commission adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Chris Berry, Mayor

Sue Roberts, City Clerk