

CITY OF HANCOCK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023  
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET  
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com - Meeting ID: 821 4402 1682

**Organizational and Regular Meeting 6:00 pm**

Call to order and pledge of allegiance led by City Clerk Linda Kalinec

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler

Absent: Blau

**Also Present:** Mary Babcock, Linda Kalinec, John Erickson, Garrett Neese, John Zurcher, John Diebel, Jay Green, Glenn Anderson, Shelley Lucchesi, Carol Freeman, Alan Salmi, Michael Markham, Jay Ruohonen, Members of the MTU Undergraduate Student Government Committee (Brendan Leddy, Chris Allen, Owen Gorter, Matthew Staats) and other members of the public.

**Also Present via Zoom:** None

**Review and Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item #10 to consider approval of Resolution 23-22 to submit an application to the State Land Bank Blight Elimination Program for the demolition of the building at 224 Quincy St.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment**

- Brendan Leddy, Chris Allen, Owen Gorter and Matthew Staats of the Michigan Tech Univ. Undergraduate Student Government Committee spoke about sending a representative from their organization to the council meetings.
- Alan Salmi – W. Water St. addressed the council about a letter he submitted regarding setting up a housing cooperative in one of the Finlandia Buildings the City is purchasing.
- Shelley Lucchesi and Carol Freeman spoke about the many activities happening this year during the annual Christmas Walk to be held the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Council members and everyone were invited to join in the parade and considering volunteering to help with the event.

City Clerk, Linda Kalinec accepted nominations to elect a Mayor for a one-year term.

Nomination for Councilor Rickard by Councilor McKenzie

Councilor Rickard accepted the nomination

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to nominate Kurt Rickard as Mayor for a one-year term.

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, McKenzie

No: None

Absent: Blau

Motion Carried

Mayor Rickard requested a motion to excuse Councilor Blau from tonight's meeting.

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Freeman to excuse Councilor Blau from tonight's meeting.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

Mayor Rickard accepted nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem for a one-year term

Nomination for McKenzie by Councilor Warstler  
Councilor McKenzie accepted the nomination

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to nominate Councilor McKenzie as the Mayor Pro-Tem for a one-year term.

Yes: McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Presentation:** John Diebel gave a presentation about the Hancock Trails formerly known as the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club, it's history and relationship with the City.

**Communication**

MI Public Service Commission  
Alan Salmi letter regarding a housing cooperative

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to accept and place on file the communication as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Review and acceptance of meeting minutes**

DDA August 7, 2023  
Planning Commission August 28, 2023

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to accept and place on file the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2023 DDA minutes with a correction to record the member names to the YES and NO votes for item #3, and accept the Planning Commission minutes as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes**

Regular Meeting October 17, 2023  
Closed Session September 18, 2023

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve and accept the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023 and the City Council closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023 as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

### **Administrative Report**

City Manager Babcock commented on the following:

- Christmas Walk will again be held on the Friday after Thanksgiving, they are in need of volunteers, people interested in volunteering can call City Hall. The Children's Annual Holiday Hunt will be to collect a stamp from each downtown business. The Holiday Hunt sheet will be distributed to the schools to be completed and turned in to City Hall by Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> to be entered into a drawing for a prize.
- Keweenaw Holiday Hoopla will be Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Bonfire restaurant. The event is sponsored by Copper Shores Community Health Foundation, Keweenaw Young Professionals, KEDA, Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds will be used to fund the CSCHF-KEDA CTE Scholarship Program.
- City Holiday Gathering will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Gino's, council members are encouraged to attend.
- Category B Grants – North Street/Prospect Street grant amount approved at \$142,386.50, local match of the same amount for a total project cost of \$284,773. Minnesota Street grant amount approved at \$237,412.00, local match of the same amount for a total project cost of \$474,824.00.
- MTEC Grants is a recipient of the EDA Build to Scale Grant in the amount \$750,000 and has also been awarded \$3.4 million from the Small Businesses Support Hubs (SBSH) program.
- Bridge Michigan web page article forwarded by Mayor Rickard regarding the Michigan Senate vote for legislation that would override local decisions on wind and solar energy.
- Letter was sent to residents in the Poplar Street area requesting input on additional stop signs in the area, most were opposed. Speed limit signs will be added. The police have been patrolling the area and are not seeing speeding.
- Resolution 23-22 regarding the submission of an application to the State Land Bank Blight Elimination Program for the building at 224 Quincy St.
- The "Coffee with a Cop" at K.C. Bonkers was well attended, during the event, they collected quite a few toys for the Toys-for-Tots gift drive and will continue the drive through the Christmas Walk. They have also been busy enforcing the winter barking ban.

### **New Business**

1. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve Resolution 23-21 to establish a central polling place and abolish polling locations no longer required.

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Rickard, McKenzie

No: Tanner, Freeman

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve OHM proposal for professional services on the Minnesota Street Category B Design and Contract Administration in the amount of \$146,700.00.

Yes: McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve OHM proposal for professional services on the North/Prospect Street Category B Design and Contract Administration in the amount of \$90,600.00  
  
Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, McKenzie  
No: None  
Motion Carried
4. Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor Tanner to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$1,363,778.26.  
  
Yes: McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler  
No: None  
Motion Carried
5. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve the 457 MERS plan with an employer match up to 5% for permanent PT Employees over 25 hours a week, full time transit and full time permanent seasonal employees.  
  
Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, McKenzie  
No: None  
Motion Carried
6. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve a salary adjustment for the Police Chief, DPW Director, and Clerk/Treasurer for a total increase of \$7,505.16 per personnel committee recommendation.  
  
Yes: McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler  
No: None  
Motion Carried
7. Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve Payne and Dolan's Hancock Business and Technology Park payment application #7 in the amount of \$674,514.18.  
  
Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, McKenzie  
No: None  
Motion Carried
8. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve the Central Structures payment application #3 for the Salt and Storage Barn Building in the amount of \$259,650.00.  
  
Yes: McKenzie, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler  
No: None  
Motion Carried
9. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve council member committee appointments as presented, with the change to take Lisa McKenzie off the Houghton County Recreation Authority and appoint Rick Freeman to this board.  
  
Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, McKenzie  
No: None  
Motion Carried

10. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve Resolution 23-22 to submit an application to the State Land Bank for the Blight Elimination Program in the amount of \$13,544 for the demolition of the building at 224 Quincy St.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Public Comment**


- John Diebel on behalf of the Hancock Trails club reminder that Giving Tuesday is coming up.

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried



Kurt Rickard, Mayor



Linda Kalinec, City Clerk