

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

The regular Planning Commission meeting of Monday, September 26, 2011 was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following members present: Bill Baxandall, Dan Lorenzetti, Glenn Anderson, Bill Laitila, Dave Lucchesi, Tony Wilmers, Bob Wenc, Terry Monson, Lisa McKenzie arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Absent: None

Guests: Erin Bertocchi, Jonathan McCracken, Daniel Newell, Adam Zang, Eric Latz, Mark Kivisto, Edward Statzer, Edward Macki, Brandon Syrsa, Bill Leder, Scott Badger, Devlin Huhta, James Lawson, John Haeussler & Roland Burgan.

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Baxandall to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the August 22, 2011 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There were no public comments.

The commission heard a presentation from 12 MTU Sr. Civil Engineering Design students which are preparing a complete streets plan for the city this semester as part of their class work. The class is taught by Bill Leder and Bill Baxandall.

The class will divide into three sub groups of 4 students each, with one team looking at pedestrian/sidewalks, the second team looking at bike paths, and the third team developing a hand book on complete streets.

The class will present their findings to the commission at its December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti welcomed the students and thanked them for their interest in Hancock.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the September 8, 2011 US41/M26 Corridor meeting notes.

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- Reviewed the July 6, 2011 Portage Lake Lift Bridge Long Term Outage Group meeting notes.
- Received an update on the Jun 19-23, 2013 Finn Fest USA event.
- Noted that MTU's Transportation Enterprise and Automotive Computing Enterprise Group were awarded a \$50,000 grant from FORD to study public transportation on campus and in both cities of Hancock & Houghton. The student group will study the Hancock Transit operations.
- Reviewed the two submittals to US DOT Office of Aviation for continuation of commercial air service at CMX with the Essential Air Service Program. Two proposals were received, one from United/Skywest and the other from Sovereign Air. SkyWest's proposal was for an annual subsidy of \$591,615 and Sovereign Air was for \$1,321,266. Sky West's Airlines proposal was down from the current EAS subsidy of \$1,404,714. The city has voted to endorse the Sky West proposal.
- Heard that the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club was contributing \$5,500 toward the purchase of a new Yamaha Grizzly ATV to groom ski trails. The city has agreed to fund 2,000, and a 2007 Yamaha snowmobile will be sold for \$5,600 to pay for the new ATV.
- Reviewed the new 2011 Citizen's Guide to the city's Financial Health, and the new dash board, both of which are available on the city website.
- Received an update on the sewer rehab project, with about 80% of the sewer project now complete. Two hundred out of 270 manholes are now done, and about 6 out of 7.2 miles of sewer main have been relined. About 10 manholes still need to be relined.
- The water project has 40 out of 240 replacement service laterals to go, about 1,000 feet of 16" transmission main out of 5.07 miles of replacement main has been completed, and E. Water St. will be the final water main reconstruct from the original water contract. An additional \$700,000 of water work will remain for 2012.
- Heard that Franklin Twp. has secured Rural Development Financing for the Ripley sewer project.
- Looked at several Planning & Zoning articles in the August 2011 edition on mineral extractions and the impact of the new HB 4746 introduced by Representative Matt Huuki.
- Received an update on the 2011 Phase 1 blight reduction grant program currently underway by the city.
- Noted that the city is proposing a sewer rate increase to pay for the new debt payments.

The Commission reviewed the DNR staff scoring of the MNRTF grant application for a new Navy St. Boardwalk in front of Coon Electric Building on Navy St. Staff scored the project at 280 out of a total point award of 520. The city has identified 5 areas that will be submitted to the DNR in an attempt to raise the score higher. Final scoring will take place in November, and then the higher score grant applications will be sent by the MNRTF board to the State Legislature for review and approval.

City Manager Anderson reported on the Lahti 424 Hancock Ave. garage site plan conditions established by the commission at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The owner and project manager Tim Palosaari have agreed to have stucco on the East & West sides of the building. The electric overhead garage doors will have a battery backup, in addition

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to the hand pulled inside garage opener. State building code does not require a second main door entrance to each garage bay.

Planning Commission members Baxandall and Monson presented proposed updates to the city's Strategic Plan for the following sections under **Public Infrastructure and Services (CDC)**:

- Public Water Improvements
- Public Sewer Improvements
- Solid Waster Management
- Waterfront Improvement
- Streets and Curbs
- Sidewalks
- Building Grounds and Equipment

In addition, they provided updates to the following **Housing (CDC)**:

- Affordable Housing
- New Housing Units
- Historic Preservation
- Neighborhood Preservation
- Codes and Ordinances
- Special Needs Housing

Dan Lorenzetti left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Commission was briefed on a new \$300,000 rental rehab MSHDA grant application to be submitted by the end of September. The City Council held a Public Hearing on September 21, 2011. The application targets the 100, 200, 300, & 400 blocks of Quincy Street. MSHDA guidelines suggest core downtown mixed use rental projects as a key element to the program.

The city also has the option of submitting an application to MSHDA for a new conversion grant program for single buildings that have been vacant for 5 years, or have had fire damage such as the Bradway Building at 116 Quincy Street.

It was moved by Lucchesi and seconded by Wilmers to support the MSHDA grant application for \$300,000 for the 4 blocks of the core downtown.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

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It was moved by Laitila and seconded by McKenzie to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary