

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF
DECEMBER 8, 2014**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Dan Lorenzetti, Deborah Mann, Bob Wenc, Dave Lucchesi, Glenn Anderson and Tony Wilmers.

Absent: Lisa McKenzie and Ron Blau

Guests: Bill Marlor and Roland Burgan

The Commission honored the memory of Commission member Bill Baxandall who passed away in early November at age 80 with a moment of silence.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the October 27, 2014 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Heard that the PIPP SSR surcharge of about 10% will be included in the January 2015 UPPCO bills.

-Reviewed the November 28th FERC letter on revised cost allocation rate schedules.

-Heard that the City Council held a public hearing in November on the proposal to extend the life of the DDA 30 years, to 2045, and no opposition was received.

-Heard that the City will be receiving bids on December 15th for rehab of the Masonic Building owned by Soren Dresch located at 228 Hancock St. Financing for the project is still uncertain.

-Heard that interior demolition of the 119 Quincy St. building has been underway since late October, and the building is awaiting a new shingle roof, which may be delayed by winter.

-Heard the City has hired a new Police Chief, Wayne Butler, who came to the City after a 20 year career as a police officer with the City of Morrow, Georgia Police Dept. He grew up in Bruce Crossing and graduated from Ewen Trout Creek High School.

Heard that Sgt. Jerry Hiltunen was promoted to Lieutenant on October 20th, Wayne Ohtonen was promoted to Sergeant, and Jeremy Lassila was promoted to Corporal, Darrick Coponen was hired as a new police officer effective November 30th.

-Reviewed the final report on the \$26,100 E. Hancock Stairway rehab project, partially funded with a \$10,490 Americana Foundation Grant.

-Received an update on the \$46.29 million Portage Health Foundation. The Foundation estimates it will disburse between \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million annually.

-Heard MJO Contracting had completed \$10,000 worth of bulldozing and grubbing on Campus Dr. West.

-Reviewed the PLLB communication working group meeting notes of November 5th.

-Received an update on the 34 businesses located in the Jutila Building Finlandia University business incubator space.

-reviewed the DEQ Notice of a dredging permit application from Greensand, Inc. for stamp sands located in Gay.

-Reviewed the details and target area of the \$480,000 MSHDA grant application for both a single-family rehab and homeowner purchase program.

-Reviewed the US41/M-26 corridor meeting notes of September 11, 2014.

-Noted County building permits for new houses were down from last year.

-Heard the City has submitted the 2016 water project preliminary engineering report (PER) to Rural Development as the first step in project financing.

-Heard that Houghton County holds a \$400,000 loan for Louie's Foods Project.

-Heard the FU Bond issue is still pending sale.

The Commission was notified that the 2016 Streetscape Project was funded with a MDOT TAP grant of \$1,050,218 to be matched by DDA funds for \$262,555 for a total project cost of \$1,312,773.

The Commission reviewed the preliminary SHPO comments on the streetscape project, which had concerns on the proposed streetscape tree plantings and sidewalk width.

The Commission was updated on the MDOT Lift Bridge \$8.3 million rehab project which will start work in the 1st week of January. MDOT will be holding a community meeting at MTU's Fisher Hall on December 18th.

The Commission was briefed on the creation of a parks and recreation endowment capitalized with \$10,000 of city recreation funds through the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

It was moved by Wilmers and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary

