

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF JANUARY 22, 2018**

The regular Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Lucchesi on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Deb Mann, Tony Wilmers, Bob Wenc, David Lucchesi, Lisa McKenzie, Ron Blau and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Devin Leonarduzzi and Stephanie Swartzendruber

Guests: Paul LaBine and Shelly Lucchesi

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Wilmers to approve the December 11, 2017 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

- Noted the 2018 County Fair will be held on August 23rd through August 26th.
- Reviewed the 2017 annual report from the Houghton County Fair Board
- Learned that the City Transit in 2017 had 19,583 riders, and since inception in 2003, 15 years ago, the Transit has had 277,159 riders
- Reviewed the 19th Annual 2018 Heikinpaiva Schedule of Events and noted that Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity is chairing this years polar bear plunge
- Looked at the 11th Annual Barnelopt Kids Ski Race scheduled for Sunday, February 11th
- Heard that Mike Mattila donated 3 lots on Navy Street West of the 3-story condo building to Finlandia University and FU has listed them for sale
- Reviewed proposed 2018 project and goals prepared by the City Manager
- Reviewed the city water system asset management plan and 5-year capital plan submitted to the DEQ for review in late December, 2017

The Commission reviewed with City Council member Paul LaBine the latest draft, dated January 15th, a proposed new sign ordinance amendment that the City Council has been considering. Deb Mann discussed if there was a limit on sign brightness/lumens. Lisa

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McKenzie stated the new sign ordinance incorporated recent federal court cases related to signage.

Ron Blau asked how you would enforce a brightness limit. Bob Wenc stated the new ordinance should allow existing historic signs. Dave Lucchesi suggested allowing more than one flag sign, especially during special business promotions. Bob Wenc stated he thought the minimum 10-foot sign setback from a travel lane was too high in certain areas of the City. Dave Lucchesi encouraged the City Council to support the new sign ordinance draft.

It was moved by Lucchesi and seconded by Blau to recommend favorable consideration to the proposed sign ordinance to the City Council and waived the right to review any final changes deemed necessary by the City Council.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Debb Mann suggested the City investigate installing an electric car charging station in the downtown area.

Deb Mann suggested the City consider a small Welcome Center for visitors.

Bob Wenc commented on the need for MTU Mt. Ripley consider a larger ski chalet

Tony Wilmers commented on the need for more downtown overnight parking.

The Commission reviewed a survey of UP Cities and Houghton County Municipalities on the current status of Medical Marijuana opt in under the Facilities Licensing Act, compiled by John Haeussler, noting Portage Township and Torch Lake Township have opted in.

The Commission reviewed portions of the State of Michigan LARA emergency medical marijuana regulations dated December 4, 2017 and noted the capitalization requirements for each license.

The Commission reviewed a lot split application from the Rosemary Wickley Trust for a lot split on Lot 17, Block 7, plat of the Village (now City). The building on the East half of the lot has a new buyer, Keith and Michelle Gall.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Mann to approve the lot split for Lot 17, Block 7, plat of the Village (now City) into two new parcels, the West half of Lot 17 and the East half of Lot 17, Block 7, plat of the Village (now City) of Hancock.

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AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

The Commission reviewed the new Federal Rural Development Marihuana Compliance Certification which a municipality would need to sign for new federal loan and or grants.

Dave Lucchesi mentioned the City turned down the potential sale of one lot on M-203 East of Swedetown Creek which the sale price could have been used to enhance existing City recreation assets.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Blau to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary