

CITY OF HANCOCK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020
ZOOM MEETING HELD

Regular Meeting 6:02 p.m.

Call to order and pledge of allegiance

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Blau, Lytle, Slivon, LaBine, Seguin, Warstler, Haeussler

Also Present: John Jaehnig, Beth Fredianelli, and members of the public

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Slivon to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment-Anyone wishing to address the council will be recognized by the Mayor at this time.

Scott Dianda-via phone- Tranquility Fields are still committed to the property at 224 Quincy Street. He would like to have a meeting to discuss the status of the marijuana ordinance.

Susan Burack – Scott Building - I strongly support Resolution 20-05. Having attended the Task Force Meetings, it is clear that there are viable alternatives for the UP to Line 5 which is such a risk to the Great Lakes/Pure MI.

Kevin Mackey – 204 Harris St -via email- This public comment is to state my absolute and vigorous opposition to this resolution that is obviously aimed at Enbridge Line 5. First, I believe that your jobs as City officials should focus on running the City of Hancock in the best interests of its taxpayers and citizens, NOT furthering extraneous personal political agendas. We have plenty of real problems right here in Hancock that you could address instead that ARE your responsibility.

Second, if this illogical pipedream actually shut down Line 5, it would have an immediate negative effect on the citizens you are supposed to represent, who already pay some of the highest energy bills in the Country. It has been reported that as of June 2016, Line 5, which has been operating safely for over 60 years, supplies 65 per cent of propane demand in the Upper Peninsula. Losing this source of propane would undoubtedly cause an increase in cost, and result in many hundreds, if not thousands, of trucks transporting the same amount of oil, which I believe would be even more environmentally hazardous than the pipeline.

Please reject this resolution.

Jessica Daignault – 742 Elm Street –via email- I am writing in support of Proposed Resolution 20-05. The move away from fossil fuels can have positive impacts on both our air quality and our water quality. As a community located within a Great Lakes basin, we must promote protection of our precious water resources and be proactive in preventing any possible spills which could have catastrophic effects on ecosystem health and public health.

Rosemary Grier – Houghton County Resident – via email

My name is Rosemary Grier and have lived in Houghton County for over 40 years. Our family has enjoyed all parts of what Hancock and the area offers, from the businesses; including restaurants, groceries, Finlandia, to the many recreational opportunities and other services. We will continue to shop, participate, and outdoor adventures. I encourage the city council to vote yes for the proposed Resolution 20-05 supporting the immediate halting of oil transport under the Great Lakes.

Our family is a long-time user of propane to heat our home, hot water, and cook our food. Enbridge Line 5 has a monopoly of delivery of not only my propane but most of all of the propane in the UP. Now, consider the decaying Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline across the UP and in the Straits of Mackinac that continue to pump 23 million gallons of oil every day. Another catastrophic oil spill is inevitable and will happen sooner that we think. I am aware of recent findings from the UP-Energy Task Force that just completed their report. It includes specific recommendations to enhance the reliability of propane supply in the UP and a detailed analysis of alternative means of supplying propane if the current system through Enbridge's Line 5 supply changes. I am not worried about getting propane with this plan, but have grave concerns about Line 5's deterioration and track record of 33 spills of at least 1.1 million gallons along its length since 1968.

As a city council, each of you are in a unique position to be part of a visionary action to vote yes for the proposed Resolution 20-05 supporting the immediate halting of oil transport under the Great Lakes and shut down Line 5 flowing across the UP and under the Straits of the Mackinac. I urge to vote with a vision for sustainability and do what is right for the citizens and the environment.

Bonita Hay – Mohawk – via email

I have a comment to make concerning the “Resolution Supporting the Immediate Halting of Oil Transport Under the Great Lakes” presented to the Hancock City Council in a public meeting on April 13th. I fear that the impact of Line 5 on the Great Lakes will be a damaging one. Enbridge has a bad environmental record and there is no reason to believe that they will be better managers of this installation which could leak oil into Michigan's high-quality water resources and cause irreversible damage to waters held in perpetuity in trust for generations to come. Great Lakes water quality (particularly of course, locally, Lake Superior) is vital to the economy- fishing, recreational boating, and tourism in particular depend on high water quality. My husband and I are seasonal residents of the Keweenaw. We bring our dollars “up north” help to support the local economy. We shop at the Keweenaw Co-op, frequent Hancock shops, and hire contractors from the area. There are many folks like us that come to the Copper Country because of deep family history there, and for its engaging community, fresh air, stunning natural gifts, and clean

waters. I urge you to oppose this underwater pipeline and pass the resolution which is proposed.

Linda Rulison – Houghton County – via email

As a Houghton County resident and retired Hancock Public School teacher, I applaud both Will Lytle and the entire Hancock City Council for producing and entertaining the passage of this well written proposed resolution 20-05 supporting the immediate halting of oil transport under the Great Lakes.

As a concerned citizen, I attended the UP-Energy Task Force Public meeting held in Hancock and then traveled around the UP to attend other public meetings. The concerns that citizens had around the UP were fairly unified in their concern for public safety and for the contamination of the Great Lakes and for a continuous source of propane or other sources of energy for those of us who live in the U.P.

What we learned is that this is a very complicated and at times emotional issue. However, there is no doubt that Line 5 does poses a great threat to the Great Lakes as outlined in the resolution.

Also, there is a need to provide for a failure in the lines if they should fail anywhere along the route and most importantly, there are other solutions to this challenge besides Line 5 under the Great Lakes.

We do NOT need line 5 traveling under the Great Lakes. We NEED to keep the Great Lakes GREAT!

Communications

Hans Lechner-Scott Street Traffic Issues

Phi Kappa Tau-Covid 19

Dean Woodbeck-Campus Dr. West

Motion by Councilor Lytle and supported by Councilor Warstler to accept and put on file the communication as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and approval of previous minutes

Regular Council Meeting March 18, 2020

Regular Council Meeting November 20, 2019

Special Council Meeting, March 4, 2020

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Lytle to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2020, November 20, 2019 and March 4, 2020 with one correction on the March 18th, 2020 minutes. Remove abstain from Ron Blau's vote on Old Business: grant application for the acquisition of Copper Island Beach Club property. His vote was Yes.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

Administrative Report

Covid-19 Update

- Business Resources-A list of businesses in Hancock has been put together to help share the resources for loans and grants. There are many opportunities for assistance with the MEDC, SBA and Federal programs
- Transit- The Transit is continuing to provide service from 7 am to 5 pm. They have procedures for follow after each shift to clean the busses. At this point the Transit should receive an additional 18% from the 5311-funding source for both FY 2020 & 2021. This is to help cover additional eligible expenses and will be approximately \$9,000 per year. Plus, there is 10 million set aside to assist with lost revenues. Both of these items are part of the CARES Act.
- Campground- A notice was received from the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department stating the campground needs to remain closed.
- Playgrounds- Orange fencing around the playground structures at the City Parks. The Covid-19 virus can live on the playground services for up to 5 days.
- Utility/Eviction- Executive Order 2020-28, there must be water service to every resident. Shut-offs are put on hold and landlords cannot evict renters for non-payment of rent.
- Passport Grant Update- The work on the DNR Passport Grant was stopped effective 4-1-2020.

Ordinance Review Committee- A meeting will be scheduled to go over rental registrations.

Budget Work Session-April 22nd, 2020: consensus was to hold the work session at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Haeussler to approve current accounts payable in the amount of \$289,412.55.

Roll Call:

Yes: Haeussler, Warstler, Seguin, LaBine, Slivon, Lytle, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilor Haeussler and supported by Councilor Seguin to approve and award the contract for the FEMA PW 139 Road Repairs to Portage Lake Construction in the amount of \$235,889.00.

Roll Call:

Yes: Blau, Lytle, Slivon, LaBine, Seguin, Warstler, Haeussler

No: None

Motion Carried

Discussion on 3 Alternates to the FEMA PW139 road repair bids. #1 is Dakota Street, #2 is Ryan Street and #3 is Finn Street. This work would be completed while Portage Lake Construction is in the area. No action or decisions will be made tonight.

Motion by Councilor Seguin and supported by Councilor Haeussler to approve the Rural Development Grant application for a new police vehicle.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve Resolution 20-05 supporting the halting of transportation oil under the Great Lakes or adjoining wetlands via pipeline or tunnel immediately.

Roll Call:

Yes: Warstler, Slivon, Lytle

No: Haeussler, Seguin, LaBine, Blau

Motion Failed

Motion by Councilor Haeussler and supported by Councilor Seguin to approve the OHM Professional Service Proposal for work on the 2021 MDOT Small Urban program with the understanding that there will be no administration fees incurred until project work commences.

Roll Call:

Yes: Blau, Lytle, Slivon, LaBine, Seguin, Warstler, Haeussler

No: None

Motion Carried

Councilor Haeussler suggested that Public Comment be moved above #8 – Closed Session on the agenda.

Mayor LaBine opened up public comment.

Public Comment-Anyone wishing to address the council will be recognized by the Mayor at this time.

John Jaehnig-708 Ryan St.-had information regarding Superior National Bank, customers have the option of not paying their mortgage but can pay their escrows.

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Warstler to enter into Closed Session-under section 8 (f) Employment with the time being 7:20 p.m.

Roll Call:

Yes: Haeussler, Warstler, Seguin, LaBine, Slivon, Lytle, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Haeussler to leave closed session and start the open session at 7:50 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Haeussler for the Personnel Committee to pursue and negotiate a contract with Mary Babcock for full City Manager position.

Roll Call:

Yes: Blau, Lytle, Slivon, LaBine, Seguin, Warstler, Haeussler

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment- Anyone wishing to address the council will be recognized by the Mayor at this time.

No comments at this time.

Promotions:

John Haeussler will be giving a remote presentation on Thursday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. sponsored by the Carnegie Museum. Title: Notable women in Hancock History.

Ordinance Review Committee

Motion by Councilor Haeussler and supported by Councilor Warstler to appoint Councilor Blau to the Ordinance Review Committee.

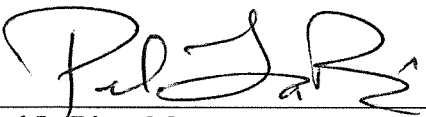
Yes: All

No: None


Motion Carried

Motion by Councilor Slivon and supported by Councilor Warstler to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried



Paul LaBine, Mayor



Mary Babcock, City Clerk