

CITY OF HANCOCK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM. Meeting ID: 821 4402 1682

Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM

Call to order and pledge of allegiance by Mayor, Paul LaBine.

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Warstler

Absent: Haeussler

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Rickard to excuse Councilor Haeussler from the meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Also Present: Jared Hyrkas, Margo Pizzi, Bill Lepisto, Jay Ruohonen, John Zurcher, Zack Osborn, Glenn Anderson, Sadiq, Michele Blau, media reporter from the Copper Beacon.

Via Zoom: Thomas Fournier; Mary's iPad, Bob Baratano, Kevin Harju, Katie Tormala, and other members of the public.

Review and approval of agenda:

Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item #3 to consider approval of the purchase agreement for Spruce Haven Estates Lot 20 with Taylor and Lily Auguston in the amount of \$19,500 with conditions and New Business item #4 to consider the approval to proceed and continue with the Business and Technology Park bid from Payne & Dolan.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Presentation

Timothy Pinnow, President of Finlandia University gave a brief introduction of himself and his background in education. He spoke about his first 5 months on the job, his task of restricting the University to its new reality. He reviewed some of the cost saving measures they implemented, including trimming the budget by 12%, shrunk the employee base, mostly through attrition and no impact to full-time employees. They have too many buildings and land for their current student base of 400 and will be looking to sell those assets. The Finlandia Art Gallery has been closed as well. Looking forward they are working on education partnership ideas with the Copper Country ISD, Northern Michigan University and Marquette hospital.

Correspondence

MML membership benefits and annual renewal.

General Teamsters – Contract Reopener.

Dept. of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs-Public Act 480 of 2006 regarding Video/Cable Regulatory Information Survey and consumer complaint information.

Letter from Lieutenant Dave Outinen regarding the candidate selected as the decision to hire the candidate from outside the department and the new Police Chief.

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Rickard to accept and place on file the communications as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and acceptance of meeting minutes

DDA September 12, 2022

Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve and place on file the minutes as presented

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes

Regular Meeting October 5, 2022

Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve and accept the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of October 5, 2022.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Administrative Report

- Make A Difference Day is this Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm with help from local businesses like Superior National Bank, Finlandia University, OHM and many volunteers. This day very near and dear to Deb, so this year, in honor of her, you will see “You’ve been Debbed” signs around town encouraging people to do something that makes a positive difference, there are stickers with each sign to encourage others to do the same. Also, Deb Mann’s family will have a celebration of life for her this Saturday as well from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Finlandia’s Finnish American Heritage Center.
- City Manager Babcock gave an overview of the police millage which will give the City the ability to hire a full-time officer to alleviate the overtime. In previous years there has been as many as 8 part-time officers available to cover time off requests, at present, there are not any part-time officers available.

- A new tree will be planted behind the Hancock Sign in West Hancock. Superior Tree Farm has donated a Balsam Fir Tree in honor of Deb Mann, and have greatly discounted the placement costs with the DPW assisting them in placing the tree.
- RRC Certification event is scheduled for November 18th with State officials and representatives attending the event and community attendance is encouraged. A local business is already using the benefits of the certification to apply for a grant.
- Hancock Rotary is hosting fund raising Wine Tasting Event on November 4th at the Finlandia Finnish American Heritage Center from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Proceeds go toward Hancock Rotary volunteer initiatives.
- Public Notice was posted on October 4th with Boards/Commission Openings for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Rental Code Board of Appeals and the Recreation Commission, hope to be able to appoint people at the next council meeting.
- Western U.P. Planning & Development region announced a grant opportunity through MSHDA MI-HOPE Program. Home owners can take part in the Increasing Home Energy Efficiency virtual event hosted by MSHDA Neighborhood Housing Initiatives Division on Wednesday, October 26 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm for home owners to see if they may qualify for the funding.
- Tami Sleeman has accepted the position as the new Hancock Police Chief. There was a committee of 5 people who were involved in the interview and selection process.
- Union negotiations will start next week, Teamsters is scheduled for 10/26, COAM for 10/27 and POAM for 11/1. If any council member is interested in being on the negotiations committee, let City Manager Mary Babcock know and she will forward the information.
- We have been using the garbage stickers for about 4 weeks; we are getting feedback both ways, some like them, others don't.
- Fire Chief, Bill Lepisto gave an update on the maintenance and repairs of the Pierce Aerial Truck. It is a 2000 model year and would normally be looking at replacing. He met with the Pierce Aerial engineer, after inspecting the truck, he said it was in excellent condition and would recommend refurbishing the truck at a cost of approximately \$250,000-\$300,000. It would cost between \$1.6 million and \$1.7 million to purchase a new replacement truck.
- Clerk/Treasurer, Linda Kalinec gave an update on the absentee voter ballots sent and received to date, 544 sent and 104 returned. Also, the audit is winding down, working with Munetrix on the CVTRS (Revenue Sharing) reporting that is due December 1 and the transit ridership is returning to pre-COVID numbers. The winter parking ban will go into effect on November 1 and Trick-or-Treating will be from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

New Business

1. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$473,655.36.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Rickard, LaBine, Freeman, McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor Rickard to approve the sale of a 1995 Ford two-wheel drive pickup to Houghton County Fair Board of \$500.00.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the purchase agreement for Spruce Haven Estates Lot 20 with Taylor and Lily Auguston in the amount of \$19,500 with conditions.

After some discussion regarding the conditions, motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to table the motion to approve the purchase.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Freeman, McKenzie, Blau

No: Rickard, LaBine

Motion Carried

4. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor LaBine to proceed with the Notice of Award to Payne & Dolan for work on the Business and Technology Park.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment None.

Council Member Comments

Time was provided for council members to promote, discuss and/or comment on items not on the agenda.

Motion by Councilor Freeman and supported by Councilor Warstler to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

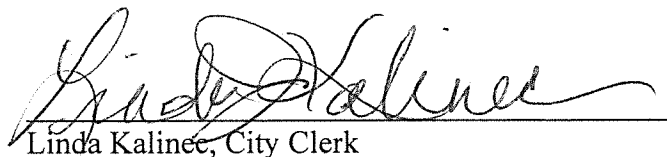
Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Paul LaBine, Mayor



Linda Kalinec, City Clerk