

CITY OF HANCOCK COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024  
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET

Public Hearing – Open at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa McKenzie.  
Ordinance 316 to amend Chapter 91 Animals of the Code of Ordinances

- Alan Salmi – 121 Water St. – thank you to the council for bringing up these issues. The way it is written it is too limited, too ambiguous, problems that need to be addressed, will he be in violation of the ordinance for feeding chipmunks in his yard peanuts? They do not put food out, feed the chipmunks individually. Bees should be allowed as well as capons, neutered male chickens, they are a good source of meat.
- Rhonda McClellan – Minnesota St. – any animals should be kept on the pet owner’s property, for example cats, they have cats that hang around their house because their owners don’t keep them on their property. Not all pet owners are responsible, address in the ordinance to be respectful of neighbors.
- Shannon Perkins – too vague – a good try, do not like the way it is written. Council should be spending their time on affordable housing. The bird feeding didn’t need to be changed.
- Missy Buschell – 735 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Laurium, MI – she is an exotic animal keeper, the ordinance is too vague, currently too open ended, need more information on reptiles.
- Carolyn Dekker – 1014 N. Elevation St. – spoke in favor of the ordinance, re-submitted an email she sent from 2022, the ordinance hasn’t been in haste, it’s been 2 ½ years.
- Bethany Jaehnig – 708 Ryan St. – spoke in favor of chickens, a decision should be made tonight.
- Kara Clairmont operates Hoppily Ever After – 56749 Rockland St., Calumet – spoke in favor of rabbits, people should be able to adopt as many rabbits as they want. She is speaking for the bunnies.
- Shawn Hammond – 1014 N. Elevation St. – in support of the ordinance, would like to have a decision tonight. He appreciates how it is written and that it has been taken up.
- Ashley Hytinen – 833 Summit St. – Exotic bird keeper and parrot owner, why is there an ordinance against it, she is certified to foster rescue parrots.
- Zach Osborn – 1316 Emery St. – in support of chickens, he has raised chickens in the past and had chicks in his basement through the winter, they are full grown and ready to start laying eggs in the spring. Presented data related to the cost of chicken feed, the number of eggs 4 hens could lay in a year, a family of 4 annual egg consumption and the cost comparison of purchasing the same amount of eggs would result in an approximate annual savings of \$400 as well as self-sufficiency.
- Ruth Gill – 1000 Crestwood Dr. – In support of the ordinance. Verbiage related to dogs is watered down. Address penalties for dog waste on the roadside, parks, trails, etc., the previous ordinance was worded better.
- Chandel Sammarco – 121 Water St. – some things not very clear, agree with self-sufficiency comments, would like to have an apiary in her yard, state what is fine to feed, she will continue feeding peanuts to the chipmunks in her yard, what would be the penalties for this? Would like bees and male chickens permitted.
- There were 31 written comment emails and letters submitted for public record.

## **Special Meeting - 6:30 P.M.**

Call to order and pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa McKenzie

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, Tanner, Lounibos, Warstler

Absent: Councilor Rickard

**Also Present:** Ginger Alberti, Shawn Hammond, Carolyn Dekker, Alan Salmi, Rhonda McClellan, Shannon Perkins, Chaundel Sammarco, Kara Clairmont, Leah Hauswirth, Missy Buschell, Ashley Hytinen, Joshua Golimbieski, Jon & Bethany Jaehnig, Mark Lounibos, Dave Dow, Dean Woodbeck, Ruth Gill, Zack Osborn, Mary Babcock, Linda Kalinec, Thomas Fournier and other members of public.

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to excuse Councilor Rickard from tonight's meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

## **Review and Approval of agenda**

Motion by Councilor Tanner and supported by Councilor Lounibos to approve the agenda.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

## **Public Comment**

- Ginger Alberti – 932 Ethel Ave. – in support of chickens and commented on encounter with someone who had a dog off-leash while walking her dog. What are the dog leash laws and what can be done, if someone could speak to her after the meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

1. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to adopt Ordinance 316 to amend Chapter 91 Animals of the Code of Ordinances.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Tanner, McKenzie

No: Freeman, Blau

Motion Carried

**Public Comment**

- Shannon Perkins – Thank you to the council and commented on continuing to feed birds, and council members listening to public comments.
- Chandel Sammarco – commented on permitting bees, look at crop yields.

Mayor Pro Tem, McKenzie stated that per our Charter, the organizational meeting will be held on November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

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

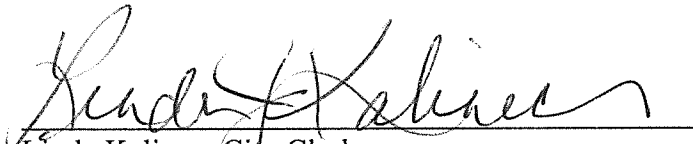
- Councilor Freeman thanked everyone; this is his last meeting.

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Linda Kalinec, City Clerk