

CITY OF HANCOCK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET

Regular Meeting - 6:00 P.M.

Call to order and pledge of allegiance

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors Blau, McKenzie, Givens, Rickard, Woodbeck, Lounibos, Warstler

Absent: None

Also present: Mary Babcock, Linda Kalinec, John Zurcher, John Erickson, Tami Sleeman, Michael Markham, Brian Irizarry, Jim Kurtti, Glenn Anderson, and other members of the public.

Review and approval of agenda

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Woodbeck to approve the agenda as amended, with the removal of items #4 approval of the 2024/2025 amended General Fund Budget and replaced with, Consider the approval of the Resident Water/Sewer Line Replacement Cost Agreement Between Property Owner and the City of Hancock.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

- Brian Irizarry, attending the meeting to introduce himself as a Houghton City Council member and continue efforts for the two city councils to work together.

Presentation

- Rukkila, Negro & Associates CPA's, PC. Auditor, Christina Smigowski presented the FY 2024 audit and answered questions from the council members.
- Finnish Committee Members Jim Kurtti and Glenn Anderson presented a plan to organize an official "Sister City" trip to Porvoo, and other cities in Finland. They are requesting non-financial support from the City for this, possibly financial support in the future as costs are finalized.

Communication

Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development

James Hainault

Motion by Councilor Warstler and seconded by Councilor Givens to accept and place on file the communications received.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and acceptance of meeting minutes

Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to accept and place on file as presented, the Portage Lake Water and Sewer Authority Meeting minutes of November 12, 2024; the DDA Regular Meeting minutes of November 4, 2024; the Planning Commission Regular Meeting minutes of October 28, 2024; the Cemetery Board of Trustees Meeting minutes of January 9, 2024; and the Recreation Commission Meeting minutes of September 10, 2024

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve and place on file the City Council Regular Meeting minutes of November 20, 2024, and the City Council Organizational Meeting minutes of November 13, 2024, as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Administrative Reports

City Manager, Babcock gave an update on the following:

- DDA is working on a Brownfield district tax capture for a \$10 million project at Skyline Commons.
- The 2025 annual meeting schedule was sent out to the council members.
- Mandy Lounibos is working on a Solar Grant for the Hoco Arena.
- Skate with Santa will be on December 20th at the HoCo Arena.
- City Hall and Transit Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve hours will be 8-12 and closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.
- Garbage schedules change for the holiday weeks, Wednesday collections will be on Tuesday.
- The Transit LAC meeting was held on Thursday, December 12th.
- We asked Hancock Public School to postpone the bid award for the purchase of the bus garage. We will bring the proposal to purchase property to the DDA in January. The garage is currently valued at \$190,000; the fuel tanks have been removed.
- The Sexton position will be posted in January; the position will be removed from the MERS defined benefit plan, will be added to the MERS 457 plan.
- The fire department has submitted a \$80,000 grant to purchase hoses.
- The old Gemignani's building is being renovated.
- Had our annual MDOT meeting, discussed various items including the budget and the pedestrian crossing at Reservation and White St.

Police Chief, Sleeman gave an update on the following:

- Update on response stats:
 - 200 calls
 - 5 accidents
 - 15 tickets
 - 85 warnings
- In appreciation to the police, Glad Tidings Church will be presenting the police officers with new medical bags on January 12, 2025.
- We will be looking at sponsoring 2 candidates for the 2025 police academy at Northern Michigan University, this is again funded through an MCOLES grant. These candidates would fill part-time shifts.

DPW Director, Erickson gave an update on the following:

- The crew is working evenings plowing snow.
- Garbage and Recycling is going well, we have been able to quickly repair the few truck issues that have come up with the cold weather.
- The HoCo Arena ice rental slots are filling up.

Clerk/Treasurer, Kalinec gave an update on the following:

- We have finished scanning the property record cards to the server, these are historical records.
- Early Vote equipment storage and site will be at the HoCo arena for State and Federal elections to be held in 2026. This last election cycle Houghton provided the site location & equipment storage at no cost, we are taking our turn.

New Business

1. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor Woodbeck to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$877,118.89.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Woodbeck, Rickard, Givens, McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve a non-union personnel wage increase of 3% effective January 1, 2025.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Givens, Rickard, Woodbeck, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve non-financial support for a Sister City visit to Porvoo, Finland in 2025.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

4. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the Resident Water/Sewer Line Replacement Cost Agreement Between Property Owner and City of Hancock with the addition of a Notary Public Signature to the agreement.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

5. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Warstler to provide a Notice of Award to Blue Line Site Solutions for work to be completed for the Business & Technology Park Phase II in the amount of \$773,404.50.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Woodbeck, Rickard, Givens, McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

6. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor McKenzie to approve MJO Contracting, Inc. change order #3 for 2022 Sewer Improvements project for a decrease of \$146,690.09.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Givens, Rickard, Woodbeck, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

7. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve MJO Contracting, Inc. payment application #8 for the 2022 Sewer Improvements project in the amount of \$35,637.94.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Woodbeck, Rickard, Givens, McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

8. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Warstler to accept the FY24 audit as presented by Christina Smigowski from Rukkila, Negro and Associates, CPAs, PC.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Givens, Rickard, Woodbeck, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

9. Motion by Councilor Warstler and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to enter Closed Session: Pursuant to Open Meetings Act MCL15.268 - Attorney Client Privilege at 7:00 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

10. Return to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

Public Comment - None

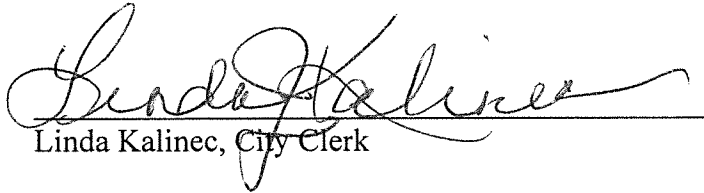
Time was provided for council members to promote, discuss and/or comment on items not on the agenda.

Motion by Councilor Warstler and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Linda Kalinec, City Clerk