

CITY OF HANCOCK CITY COUNCIL
March 18, 2019 meeting minutes

A work session of the City of Hancock City Council was called to order by Mayor John Haeussler at 6:07 PM at City Hall, 399 Quincy Street, Hancock, Michigan.

Present: Councilors John Haeussler, Paul LaBine, Will Lytle, Dan Seguin, John Slivon, and Whitney Warstler; and resident Susan Burack.

Public Comment: Susan suggested walkability, traffic calming, attention to downtown, tree planting, and following the Master Plan as community goals.

Discussion of City Goals for the forthcoming 12-18 months:

1. Recreation Millage Projects

- Ongoing projects include: install wayfinding signage; install two bike fix-it stations; work on bocce ball court; order and install playground structure at Givens Field; order and install playground structure at Campground; complete tennis court at Terrace Park (\$20,000 PHF grant); order and install ADA swing at Campground (\$5,000 KCF grant); order and install artistic bike racks (\$5,000 KCF grant); reinstall climber and swing at Terrace Park; reinstall monkey bars at Montezuma Park; complete infield improvements at Schaaf Field; install Recreation Millage signs; have ribbon cutting for recreational pier at Beach; line pickle ball courts at Lurn-Grove Park.
- FY 2019-20 rec budget likely to include: commitment to HoCo Arena capital improvements; matching funds for DNR Rec Passport Grant for renovation and expansion of restrooms at Campground; KNSC cost-share TBD; snow-blower to clear ice arena surface at Lurn-Grove Park; contribution toward big screen and related equipment for showing movies at Campground.

Councilor Ron Blau and City Manager Barry Givens joined the meeting at 6:20 PM, during the Recreation Millage discussion. Ron suggested that the Rec Comm consider a disc golf course in Hancock.

2. FEMA Projects

3. FHWA Projects

- These projects simply have to be done; attention must be focused on them including regular meetings and paperwork involving Barry and other City staff.

4. Acquire FHWA 20% Match Funding

- Original estimate of the City's 20% match was close to \$915,000. The Council recently approved submitting a loan application to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) based on an estimate of \$756,136.10. In reviewing project low bids to date the City's match may be closer to \$650,000. It's possible that the Campus Drive Extension repairs will be moved from FHWA to FEMA, which could reduce the City's match to approx \$450,000. Regardless, the City is facing a significant responsibility re: FHWA matching funds. Such funding is not included in Governor Whitmer's proposed budget. Barry is hoping to meet with Senator Ed McBroom and Representative Greg Markkanen later this week to discuss potential legislative assistance. It's also possible that the SIB loan could be approved and later forgiven. Barry is awaiting information from SIB re: length of loan and interest rate options.

Discussion of City Goals for the forthcoming 12-18 months (continued):

5. Continue Work to Achieve Redevelopment Ready Community Status

- This is an MEDC program that appears to be continuing under Governor Whitmer. The City is eligible for MEDC funding provided that the RRC process is progressing, which it is. The redevelopment of the 1923 high school is an MEDC project. Hancock is approx 40% of the way through the process to achieve RRC status. Barry is in communication with Jen Tucker re: MEDC funding opportunities and keeping the RRC process moving forward, including providing quarterly reports.

6. Master Plan Implementation

- Barry gave a thorough presentation to the Planning Commission on MP items already initiated. A joint meeting of the Council, PC, and DDA, at which the MP will be discussed, is planned for May or June.

7. Ordinance Updating/Enforcement

- Rental regulations and property maintenance code are high priorities. Council members and City staff have heard complaints re: number of vehicles, property upkeep, etc. The Ordinance Review Committee has met, as has the Recreational Marijuana Committee — some ordinance changes may be necessary re: rec mj business licensing. The Council expressed mixed opinions re: if Cannarbor, a parent company to several medical marijuana businesses in Ann Arbor which has expressed interest in having an audience with the Council, should initially come before the full Council or the Rec MJ Comm. We anticipate that representatives of Cannarbor will attend a future Council meeting.

8. Downtown Revitalization

- This is a focal point for Barry. The DDA is advertising a downtown coordinator position. The DDA's façade grant program will continue. John H. and Barry are working with local art community leaders re: public art projects. Targeted business recruitment based on community input and increased parking are both important to revitalization. Susan has a lot of information from previous downtown studies available to share.

9. Analyze and Improve Downtown Parking

- Important for shoppers and downtown residents; also snowmobiles. Barry has contacted MTU about a review of and plan for parking as a student project; City should also consider engaging consultants for a quicker turnaround; Barry is also qualified to do a parking analysis/assessment, but finding time to do so is difficult. Several present are interested in a parking deck — options include DDA lot behind Northern Mutual and SNB&T lot next to Bleachers. Dan suggested lot near WUPHD on Depot Street and Mike Lahti's lot behind the D&N Tower as additional parking possibilities worth exploring. Ron suggesting charging for spaces in a parking deck and installing smart parking meters on Quincy Street. Will suggested exploring possibilities for underground parking.

Discussion of City Goals for the forthcoming 12-18 months (continued):

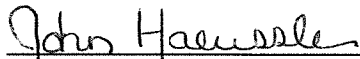
10. Financial Improvement Efforts Including Pension Liability Improvement

- As of last year the MERS fund was about 64% funded with a deficit in excess of \$1.5M. It appears that MERS will allow the City may make additional contributions to the fund. There was general agreement that the City should begin doing so in the next fiscal year and include said in the budget. Ron suggested taking a hard look at DPW and PD budgets for reduction opportunities.

Additional comments:

- Susan mentioned the possibility of a county-wide environmental fee.
- John H. reported on initial community engagement efforts re: informing stakeholders of the City's role/authority in the process of licensing recreational marijuana businesses and seeking community input on what is desired re: rec mj businesses. He also reported that Finlandia University President Philip Johnson plans to attend the May and September meetings of the Council to report on campus activities and engage in community conversation; and he thanked Barry for being the catalyst in the discussion of goals.
- Paul commended John H. for being an active and visible mayor.
- Will suggested that the City seek to develop regional partnerships re: shared issues, positioning Hancock as a leader. He also encouraged Barry to reach out to Council members when there are opportunities for them to provide assistance.
- Everyone present was engaged in the conversation and virtually every Council member commented that it was a productive meeting and time well spent.

A motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM was unanimously approved (LaBine, Slivon).



Mayor John Haeussler