

CITY OF HANCOCK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com Meeting ID: 821 4402 1682

Public Hearing - Thorton Construction (Mattila) property exchange located east of the Dog Park in exchange for topsoil at the Business and Technology Park.

No Comments

Public Hearing - Grant application for the new police vehicle in the amount of \$31,000.

No Comments

Public Hearing - Grant application for a new Caterpillar end loader in the amount of \$42,800.00.

No Comments

Regular Meeting - 6:03 P.M.

Call to order and pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Kurt Rickard

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

Absent: Councilors McKenzie and Lounibos

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to excuse Councilors McKenzie and Lounibos from the meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Also Present in person: John Zurcher, Alan Salmi, Steve Walton, Glenn Anderson, John Erickson, Tami Sleeman, Michael Markham, Linda Kalinec, Mary Babcock and other members of the public.

Also Present via Zoom: Michele Blau, Allyson Jabusch, Aidan Reilly (Progressive A&E), James Kilborn (Progressive A&E).

Review and approval of agenda

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item #15 to consider to accept and place on file the FY2023 audit as presented by Rukkila, Negro & Associates, CPAs, PC and item #16 to consider approval of transit rate increase of \$1.00 for rides outside of Hancock effective in January 1, 2024.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

- Alan Salmi – W. Water Street – commented on council meetings being available on You Tube, press releases for various reasons including events, equipment purchases, etc.

Presentation: Audit Presentation by Christina Smigowski, they issued an Unmodified Opinion.

Communication

Houghton County Recreation Plan and Master Plan

Motion made by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to accept and place on file the communications as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

Review and acceptance of meeting minutes

DDA	October 2, 2023
Planning Commission	October 23, 2023
Portage Lake Water and Sewage Authority	October 10, 2023

Motion made by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to place on file the meeting minutes as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes

Regular Meeting	November 15, 2023
-----------------	-------------------

Motion made by Councilor Tanner and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve and accept the meeting minutes as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

Administrative Report

City Manager, Babcock, commented on the following:

- Finlandia Properties closings on Ryan Street Gardens, Quincy Green, the 3 buildings (Mannerheim, Nikander & Wargelin). Leasing of some of the space and the DPW have been moving the electronics to the heated building.
- EDA approved the change order for the Allowable costs increase.
- Rural Development Funding received \$50,000 for the vacuum truck, \$50,000 for the dump truck sander and \$20,300 for the pickup truck.
- Heikinpaiva invitation to the council members to take part in the parade on January 27th.
- Trail Club will be hosting the Lumary Ski event on December 26th if there is snow.
- City Offices will be closed December 25th and January 1st – the garbage pick will also be delayed due to the holidays.
- Winter newsletter is in the works.
- The draft of the Recreation Plan is available for review and public comment.

Police Chief, Sleemen commented on the new recruit, who will be starting in the Academy on January 22, graduation will be in May.

DPW Director, Erickson commented on the work of the DPW crew, they are waiting for snow and working on other projects in the meantime.

Clerk/Treasurer, Kalinec commented on the election letters being mailed, working on wrapping up the audit and the painting of the ceiling in the City Hall offices by a few of the DPW workers.

New Business

1. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve the Master Plan Draft to be released for the 63-day public comment period as supported by the Planning Commission at the December 5, 2023 meeting.

Roll Call

Yes: Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, Blau

No: Warstler

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to approve Resolution 23-23 to enter a Interlocal Agreement with Houghton County to approve a Designated Assessor for Houghton Country Taxing Jurisdictions.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor Tanner and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-150 for the water department in the amount of \$39,754.00 from Copper Country Ford.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

4. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to approve the non-union wage increase at 4.5% effective January 1, 2023.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

5. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to reappoint Steph Olsson to the Hancock Housing Commission with a term ending 12/31/2028.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

6. Motion by Councilor Tanner and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve the OHM contract amendment for the Hancock Business and Technology Park in the amount of \$75,750.00 for additional work.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

7. Motion by Councilor Tanner and supported by Councilor Warstler to appoint Steve Mauno as a member to hold the tenant position of the Hancock Housing Commission with a term ending on 12/31/2024.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

8. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve MJO Contracting payment application #1 for the 2022 Sewer Improvement project in the amount of \$13,584.71.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

9. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Tanner to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$1,078,912.36.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

10. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to appoint Carol Korpela to the Hancock Transit Advisory Council.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

11. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Tanner to approve Central Structures change order #2 for the Salt and Storage Building in the amount of \$26,903.00 for additional work.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

12. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to affirm the motion carried at the August 16, 2023 meeting to approve the acquisition of property from Mattila's in exchange for topsoil acquired at the Business & Technology Park.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

13. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Blau to affirm the motion carried at the August 16, 2023 meeting to approve application of a USDA-RD grant for a new police vehicle for a total cost of \$56,539.00

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Tanner, Rickard, Freeman, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

14. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Warstler to affirm the motion carried at the August 16, 2023 meeting to approve application of a USDA-RD grant for a Caterpillar End Loader for a total cost of \$77,280.00

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, Freeman, Rickard, Tanner, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

15. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to accept and place on file the FY2023 audit as presented by Rukkila, Negro & Associates, CPAs P.C.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

16. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Warstler to approve the Transit rate increase of \$1.00 per ride for rides outside of Hancock, effective January 1, 2024.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment-None

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

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

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Linda Kalinec, City Clerk