

CITY OF HANCOCK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET

Public Hearing – 6:00 P.M. Water Rate Increase

- Al Salmi – W. Water St. - commented on the usage charge and concern for residents on a fixed income.

Regular Meeting - 6:05 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, Michael Markham, Ben Garbacz, Rick Freeman, Jr., Steve Smith, Glenn Anderson, Al Salmi, Chris Zamaite, John Ylitalo, Connor Ylitalo, Ruth Gill, Collin Jackson, and other members of the media and the public.

Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor Woodbeck to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item #15 consider the approval of Resolution #25-10 MDOT Small Urban Contract Authorization for Job #214488CON; New Business item #16 consider approval of Resolutions #25-11 to decertify Cliff Street between Grove Street and Tomasi Drive, Resolution #25-12 to decertify Emery Street between Calumet Street and Hecla Street, and Resolution #25-13 to decertify Sylvan Drive between Maplewood Drive and Crestwood Drive, and New Business item #17 consider approval of Bridgefest Fireworks display on the Hancock Navy St. Waterfront.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

- Ruth Gill – Crestwood Dr. - commented on a resolution speaking to the Federal overreach like the City of Houghton passed.

Communication

Michigan Public Service Commission

Hancock Booster Club

Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Warstler 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 March 11, 2025, the Cemetery Board Meeting minutes of October 22, 2024, the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting minutes of May 30, 2024, the Recreation Commission Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025, and the Planning Commission Meeting minutes of February 24, 2025

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve and place on file the Regular Meeting minutes of March 19, 2025

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Staff Reports

City Manager, Babcock gave an update on the following:

- Thank you to those who submitted applications for the commission openings.
- Juhunnas Celebration will be the weekend of June 20th in partnership with Visit Keweenaw.
- Easter Egg hunt will be on April 19th on Quincy Green.
- The Puppy Parade has been cancelled.
- Annual Spring Cleanup will be May 10th from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., senior citizen and disabled resident pickups will be May 12th, 19th, and 27th, call City Hall to schedule a pickup day.
- The curbside pickup of the green bio bags will be from May 12th through June 6th.
- University of Michigan Jazz ensemble will be at the Hancock Community Hub Auditorium May 6th; tickets are available at the door or via the QR code in the April Newsletter.
- The beach, campground and cemetery will be opening May 15th.
- Representatives from the City of Ironwood were here yesterday to share and exchange ideas, information and site visits to the Business & Tech Park, Arena, Finlandia buildings and other areas of the city. We will be going there on April 29th.
- There will be 2 farmers markets this summer, From the Ground Up on Thursdays from 2:00 pm -5:00 pm and Keweenaw Market Association on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- ACT 51 Map updates and decertification of sections of 3 streets.
- Letter of Intent has been sent for the My Neighborhood program, there are 3 projects.
- The first meeting of the Historic Committee will be held on Monday, April 21st.
- The Arena ice removal will start next week and there will be a plant sale there on May 3rd.
- The HBA is currently conducting a membership drive.
- Mike Ruohoniemi is training for Transit.
- Tami Sleeman is training.
- No recycling pickup this week due to the upcoming holiday.
- Next Tuesday is the first Budget Work Session.
- The transit survey has wrapped up, meetings were held to share the results.

Patrol Officer, Galetto, gave an update in Police Chief, Sleeman's absence on the following:

- Statistics update on the number of calls, arrests, accidents, medical calls, etc.
- Administrative Assistant, Ylitalo, will be attending FOIA training.

DPW Director, Erickson gave an update on the following:

- DPW projects they are currently working on include patching potholes, replacing street signs and brushing.
- Arena update – shutting down the compressor tomorrow and ice removal will start next week.
- The ball fields are pretty well cleaned up, Ariens has been blowing snow on the fields for their testing this winter.

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

- Constant Contact – averaging about 497 on list serv, we get an update weekly on new and unsubscribed contacts.
- Voter records – 252 cancelled having not voted in the last 2 presidential elections, 3289 voters.
- Attended SNB sponsored Protecting your Business from Fraud.
- Water shut offs will start April 28th, there are currently 59 accounts on the list.

New Business

1. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor McKenzie to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$418,768.30.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve the re-appointment of Carol Carli to the Cemetery Board with a term ending May 1, 2030.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the appointment of Ruth Gill to the Cemetery Board with a term ending May 3, 2026.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

4. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Givens to approve the appointment of George Schriver to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending January 31, 2028.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

5. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Givens to accept with regret the resignation of Braden Knoop from the Planning Commission.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

6. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Woodbeck to approve the appointment of Crystal Zamaite to the Planning Commission with a term ending 02/15/2028.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

7. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the acceptance of the 2024 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

8. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the of MERS Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement Amendment to remove the Sexton position.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

9. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve the MERS 457 Participation Agreement Amendment to add Sexton position as eligible employees.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

10. Motion by Councilor Blau and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the renewal of the Boathouse lease with John Ylitalo for the 2025 calendar year in the amount of \$750.00.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

11. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the development agreement between CJH Properties, LLC and the City of Hancock.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

12. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve the Notice of Award to Blue Line Site Solutions for work to be completed for the MDOT Shared Streets & Spaces Grant in the amount of \$244,063.50.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

13. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Lounibos to approve Resolution #25-08 to set water rates to be effective May 16, 2025.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

14. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve Resolution #25-09 to set sewer rates to be effective May 16, 2025.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

15. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor Warstler to approve Resolution #25-10 MDOT Small Urban Contract Authorization for Job #214488CON.

Roll Call

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

No: None

Motion Carried

16. Motion by Councilor Warstler and seconded by Councilor McKenzie to approve of Resolution #25-11 to decertify Cliff Street between Grove Street and Tomasi Drive, Resolution #25-12 to decertify Emery Street between Calumet Street and Hecla Street, and Resolution #25-13 to decertify Sylvan Drive between Maplewood Drive and Crestwood Drive.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

17. Motion by Councilor Woodbeck and seconded by Councilor McKenzie to approve the Fireworks Permit for the Bridgefest Fireworks display on the Hancock Navy St. Waterfront.

Roll Call

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

No: Warstler

Motion Carried

Public Comment

- Ruth Gill – Crestwood Dr. - asked about our water fluoridation, several people in attendance responded fluoride is not added and never has been.

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

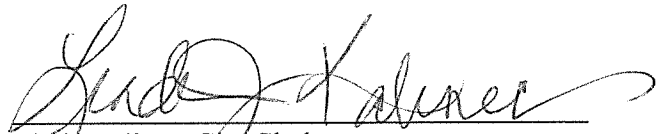
Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Kurt Rickard, Mayor


Linda Kalinec, City Clerk