

# **CITY OF HANCOCK PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2011**

The regular October 24, 2011 Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at City Hall with the following members present: Dan Lorenzetti, Bill Baxandall, Tony Wilmers, Glenn Anderson, Terry Monson, Lisa McKenzie, and Bill Laitila.

Absent: Dave Lucchesi and Bob Wenc

Guests: Roland Burgan and John Haeussler

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Wilmers to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by McKenzie to approve the September 26, 2011 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There was no public comments.

## Updates/Information

-Reviewed the September 7<sup>th</sup> Portage Lake Lift Bridge Long Term Outage Committee meeting notes.

-Reviewed the September 8<sup>th</sup> US41/M26 Corridor meeting notes.

-Heard that the new 5.07 mile 16" water transmission main from Painesdale to the Houghton valve house is now operational, at a cost of \$2.38 million.

-There is about \$700,000 worth of water distribution work under contract for 2012 and another \$500,000 of work still to be added.

-Heard that about \$100,000 is left to spend on the sewer project for 2012.

-Noted that since the sewer project started, the city has seen flow improvements for 6 months in a row.

-Heard that Payne & Dolan had paved about 900 lineal feet of Navy Street from Sunset Dr./Forest St. East at a cost of \$27,000.

-The city crew replaced a damaged section of storm sewer on Navy St. near the Medical Care Facility.

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- Heard that Mike Lahti has purchased the fire damaged building located at 116 Quincy Street from tax foreclosure with Houghton County, and plans on investing \$600 to \$700,000 to reconstruct 8 new apartments and keep the 1<sup>st</sup> floor commercial.
- Heard the city is planning to apply for a \$320,000 MSHDA rental rehab conversion grant for the 116 Quincy St. reconstruct project.
- Learned that the DEQ gave the city a satisfactory rating on its water supply system.
- Noted that the city campground had a good year, just short of last year's usage.
- Heard that the Quincy Mine had a 7.2% reduction of visits from 2010.
- Heard that Finlandia University is planning to install new pole banners from City Hall to the Jutila Building.
- Heard that MDOT has funded WUPPDR with a \$25,000 study grant to complete a final Portage Lake Lift Bridge Long Term Outage Plan, and the study is expected to be completed in September 2012.
- Heard that the owners of the fire damaged house at 1310 W. Quincy St. were reviewing their options, rebuild or tear down and fill the site. A final decision is expected soon.
- Reviewed the new SmartZone brochure.
- Heard the 2012 Heikinpaiva is scheduled for the last week in January, with the annual parade held on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Heard the new 8 bay garage being built behind 424 Hancock St. is well under construction, with 3 sides done in original sandstone, and looks very nice.
- Heard that Keweenaw Mining Company, with an office in Calumet, was looking at old drill core samples in the area for copper & other metals.
- Noted that Finlandia University accomplished about \$1 million in cost reductions, including closing the pool.

The commission received the strategy plan update for the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CDC) section prepared by Dave Lucchesi and Tony Wilmers:

- University Growth
- SmartZone
- Business Incubator
- Business growth
- Business growth

In addition, they provided updates to the following CITY CENTER (CDC):

- Downtown Revitalization
- Community Events

Chairperson Lorenzetti asked the remaining 2 subcommittees, McKenzie & Laitila with Transportation, Recreation, & Cultural Facilities, and McKenzie & Wenc, with Tourism, Civic Design & Community Relations if they could complete these assignments for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. They agreed to try.

Chairperson Lorenzetti said it's his goal to have a draft ready for the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and a final 5 year strategic plan done by the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Laitila to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary