

CITY OF HANCOCK  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023  
HANCOCK CITY HALL, 399 QUINCY STREET  
Public viewing available via ZOOM Meeting ID: 821 4402 1682

**Public Hearing: Houghton County Arena opened at 6:00 P.M.**

Glenn Anderson – 740 Lake Ave. Hancock. As a resident of Hancock, he speaks up in strong support of the purchase of the Houghton County Arena.

**Regular Meeting at 6:11 PM**

Call to order and pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Paul LaBine

Roll Call and verification of quorum

Present: Councilors, Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Lounibos, Warstler

Absent: None

**Also Present:** Thomas Fournier, Jay Ruohonen, Andy Lahti, Zack Osborne, John Zurcher, John Erickson, Tami Sleeman, Glenn Anderson, Michael Markham, Phi Kappa Tau fraternity member, Garrett Neese, and other members of the public.

**Via Zoom:** Michele Blau, Mary's ipad, Brandon Nork01, tconners, Kevin Kalinec

**Review and Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item #12 to Consider approval of a Letter of Support to the City of Houghton for a Transit Consolidation Study and funding request on their FY 2024 Transit Annual Application.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment** None

**Communication**

2023 Winter Carnival

Greg Markkanen – congratulations on the City's Redevelopment Ready Community Certification.

Department of Treasury – Qualifying Statement. The City is in "material compliance" with the criteria identified in Section 303(3) of Public Act 34 of 2001.

Email from Adam Griffis regarding his reappointment to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor Freeman to accept and place on file the communications as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

**Review and acceptance of meeting minutes**

US-41/M-26 Corridor Advisory	November 10, 2022
DDA Regular Meeting	December 5, 2022
Recreation Regular Meeting	July 12, 2022
Recreation Regular Meeting	September 13, 2022

Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Rickard to receive and put on file the meeting minutes as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Review and approval of City Council meeting minutes**

Regular Meeting	January 4, 2023
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Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve and accept the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2023 as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion Carried

**Administrative Report**

City Manager Babcock, commented on the following:

- Heikinpaiva 2023 Schedule – The parade is Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, they are looking for any council members would like to participate.
- We were awarded the Scrap Tire Grant of \$9,000, the event will be scheduled around the same time as the Spring Cleanup, not at the same time, possibly the weekend before or after.
- Salt and Storage Building funding has been approved; we are just waiting on the agreement. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,000,000 with an 80% / 20% cost share with MDOT.
- Trail Update – Property has been sold that is around and/or near the trail system, the new owners are in support of the trail system, there will not be any changes to the easements currently in place.
- Todd Gast has been hired as the DDA Marketing & Economic Development position; he will start on January 30<sup>th</sup>. He comes with marketing and social media experience.

DPW Director, John Erickson, commented on the following Public Works projects:

- The crews have been working on widening the streets; they are now back on days which has given them time to take down the Christmas décor.
- Getting Lurn-Grove ice rink ready, it was close to ready, however, with the recent warm weather, the ice melted. They have started flooding again and are hoping to have it ready for next week.
- We are looking to have the new Sander in May.

Chief of Police, Tami Sleeman, commented on the Police Department:

- Thank you for the new vehicles, other equipment the department is in need of including new body cameras, body armor, guns, tasers, it’s time to start replacing these items.
- The school was awarded the SRO grant, we will move forward with recruiting someone for this position.

- Looking into applying for a police academy grant for a new officer, we are in the process of doing background checks on a couple of the applicants and make a decision on moving forward with any hiring after those are completed.
- The officers will be attending training in the coming weeks.

Clerk/Treasurer, Linda Kalinec, commented on the following:

- There will be a county wide special election on May 2, 2023, the County has filed to renew the Road Millage.
- We have applied for an election grant for new E-pollbook laptops, we are awaiting the funds.
- Utility billing past due notices are going out with a reminder letter notifying homeowners that delinquent balances will be placed on the summer tax bills.

### **New Business**

1. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Labine to approve the current accounts payable in the amount of \$341,325.49.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Rickard, Labine, Freeman McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve Resolution 23-01 for FY 2024 Resolution of Intent to apply for state formula assistance for fiscal year 2024.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve Resolution 23-02 to allow Darick Coponen to purchase 5 years of service credit from MERS.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Rickard, Freeman McKenzie, Blau

No: Labine

Motion Carried

4. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Freeman to approve the OHM proposal for the Salt and Storage Building to be completed as part of a MDOT contract for a new salt and storage building at the DPW Garage.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

5. Motion by McKenzie and supported by Councilor Freeman to reappoint Adam Griffis and Steve Walton to the Planning Commission with a term ending 2/15/2026.

Roll Call

Yes – Adam Griffis: Lounibos, Rickard, LaBine, Freeman McKenzie, Blau

Abstain: Warstler

No: None

Yes – Steve Walton: Warstler, Lounibos, Rickard, LaBine, Freeman McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

6. Motion by Councilor Rickard and supported by Councilor Freeman to reappoint Robert Franti to the Downtown Development Authority with a term ending 1/31/2027.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

7. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Warstler to reappoint Joe Bianucci to the Hancock Housing Commission with a term ending 12/31/2027.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

8. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor Warstler to reappoint Jeff Kelley to the Board of Review with a term ending 12/31/2025.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

9. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Rickard to reappoint Dr. Steve Walton to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending on 1/31/2026.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

10. Motion by Councilor Blau and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve the Purchase Agreement for Houghton County Arena for \$1.00.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

11. Motion by Councilor McKenzie and supported by Councilor Rickard to approve the 2022/2023 Amended Budgets.

Roll Call

Yes: Warstler, Lounibos, Rickard, LaBine, Freeman McKenzie, Blau

No: None

Motion Carried

12. Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor McKenzie to approve a letter of support to the City of Houghton for a Transit Consolidation Study.

Roll Call

Yes: Blau, McKenzie, Freeman, LaBine, Rickard, Lounibos, Warstler

No: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment**

John Zurcher – Summit Street commented on parking in the city.

**Council Member Comments**

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

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

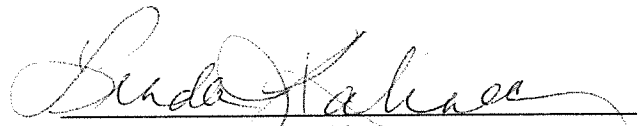
Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Paul LaBine, Mayor

  
Linda Kalinec, City Clerk

#23-01 FY 2024 RESOLUTION OF INTENT

The approved resolution of intent to apply for state formula operating assistance for fiscal year 2024 under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the Hancock, City of (hereby known as THE APPLICANT) established under Act 279 to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2024 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the governing body, to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the performance indicators have been reviewed and approved by the governing body.

WHEREAS, THE APPLICATION , has reviewed and approved the proposed balance (surplus) budget, and funding sources of estimated federal funds \$ 59,566 estimated state funds \$ 114,450 estimated local funds \$ 156,900 with total estimated expenses of \$ 330,924

(Note: Local funds include fare box and any other local revenue)

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that THE APPLICANT hereby makes its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and

HEREBY, appoints Mary Babcock as the Transportation Coordinator, for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for 2024

I, Linda Kalinec (Name) Clerk  
(Secretary/Clerk) of THE Applicant , having custody of the records and proceedings of THE APPLICANT, does hereby certify that I have compared this resolution adopted by THE APPLICANT at the meeting of January 18 , 2023 with the original minutes now on file and of record in the office and that this resolution is true and correct.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed seal of said City , this 18 day of January A.D 2023

SIGNATURE Linda Kalinec

RESOLUTION # 23-02

**TO AUTHORIZE DARICK COPONEN BE AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE SERVICE CREDITS  
FROM MERS**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Employee Retirement System provides an Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase;

WHEREAS, MERS requires the governing body of the Employer to approve all Service Credit Purchases;

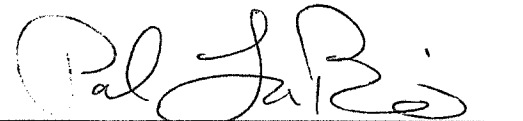
WHEREAS, MERS requires that purchases cannot be used to meet vesting requirements and Darick Coponen is fully vested and this time;

WHEREAS, this Service Credit purchase will be paid for by Darick Coponen;

WHEREAS, the employer understands and agrees it is accountable for any differences between estimated and actual costs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Hancock that henceforth Darick Coponen be authorized to purchase 5 years of service credit for MERS, and the City Manager, is authorized to sign the MERS Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2022.



Paul Labine, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:  
  
Linda Kalinec, City Clerk