

CITY OF HANCOCK
CITY COUNCIL/DDA/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023
Houghton County Arena – Wiitanen Room

Call to order by Mayor Paul LaBine at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call and verification of quorum by Commission or Committee assignment:

City Council Members

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

Absent: None

Planning Commission

Present: Lahti, Harris, Burack, Walton, Wenc, LaBine, Rickard, Blau R

Absent: Griffis

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Present: Luse, Frantti, Blau M, Diebel, Patchin, Lahti, LaBine

Absent: Heinonen

Also Present: Todd Gast, Jay Ruohonen, John Erickson, Mary Babcock, Linda Kalinec, Thomas Fournier, Michael Markham, Garrett Neese, Travis Kilpela, Zack Osborn.

Introductions by each person present & their commission or council assignment.

Motion by Councilor Blau, R. and supported by Councilor Rickard to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Zack Osborn, 1316 Emery Street commented on the Master Plan.

Management Report and Updates

City Manager, Mary Babcock, gave an update on the following items:

- Congratulations to Phi Kappa Tau 1st place in the Winter Carnival month long snow statue competition.
- Master Plan update on what the plan is, why it's important and why we are updating. There will be family friendly community sharing events on April 12th and 13th.
- City Updates including
 - General Fund reserves and fund balance, the need to strategically spend down the fund balance on capital projects.
 - Staffing updates, retirements and new hires in the past year.

- Grant/Project Updates completed over the past year and grants in progress.
- 2022 large purchases and purchases coming up in 2023
- Update on the Keweenaw Co-Op project and the award of a \$1.4 million grant from the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Police Chief, Tami Sleeman, gave an update on the following items:

- Update on service calls, incident reports, accident reports and arrests compared to last year.
- Staffing update including new hires, one coming through the academy and the new School Resource Officer which will be entirely funded by the Hancock Public School.
- Other department projects including:
 - Police Facebook page
 - Memo of Understanding with the UP Human Trafficking Task Force
 - New firearms
 - New tasers
 - Community Project (i.e., recent cyper security program)
- An update on the police vehicles.
- Parking update
- The need for a new police department and briefly described a couple of recent situations impacted by the office design as well as ADA compliance when entering the building.

Questions & Comments:

Jay Ruohonen of Superior National Bank asked about the plans for the Houghton County Area.

Mary Babcock, City Manager, responded that the City is not looking at making any staffing changes at this time, and the City is looking at ideas and ways for year around use of the facility.

Public Comment - None

John Erickson will give a tour of the arena for anyone interested.

Motion by Councilor Warstler and supported by Councilor McKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Paul LaBine, Mayor



Linda Kalinec, Clerk