

CITY OF HANCOCK & CITY OF HOUGHTON
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
700 LAKESHORE DRIVE, HOUGHTON
APRIL 3, 2024

Call to Order at 5:30 pm by Houghton Mayor, Brian Irizarry.

Present for Houghton: Councilors Brian Irizarry, Joan Suits, Robert Backon, Robert Megowen, Jan Cole, and Craig Waddell.

Absent for Houghton: Councilor Mike Needham.

Present for Hancock: Councilors Kurt Rickard, Lisa McKenzie, Amanda Lounibos, and Ryan Tanner.

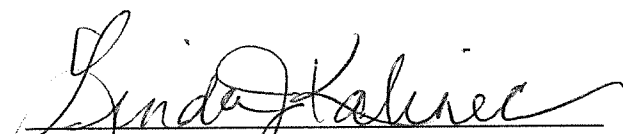
Absent for Hancock: Councilors Ron Blau, Whitney Warstler, and Richard Freeman, Jr.

Also Present: Eric Waara, Mary Babcock, Ann Vollrath, Jodi Reynolds, Linda Kalinec, Mary Kaminski, Glenn Anderson, Bill Leder, Sharon Levine, Mini Merz, Gretchen Janssen, Garrett Neese, Thomas Fournier, and Colin Jackson.

Reports:

- David Rowe, CEO of MTEC SmartZone, gave an overview of the various projects and grants they are currently working on to assist local businesses and support economic development in the area. Grant funding has been received from US Economic Development Administration, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and the Small Business Support Hubs program. The Small Business grant funding is to assist business disproportionately impacted by COVID 19.
- Hancock City Manager, Mary Babcock, gave an update on various projects and grants being worked on in the City of Hancock. Projects include Michigan Main Street; Michigan Economic Development additional funding for the Business & Technology Park; Category B grants for Minnesota Street as well as North and Prospect Streets. Other projects include a Disc Golf Course by the dog park and a walking path on Navy Street. She also gave an update on some of the former Finlandia University properties and possible future use for the buildings.
- Houghton City Manager, Eric Waara, gave an update on the status of various projects and grants including its social district; MDOT Category B funding for West Lakeshore Drive; EGLE grant for water service lines; working with MEDC to create resiliency plans for downtown businesses affected by the removal of the parking deck. And MDOT has approved funding for the Houghton & Hancock transit agencies to conduct a consolidation feasibility study and improve efficiencies.

Houghton Mayor, Brian Irizarry adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.


Linda Kalinec, Clerk