

Cities of Hancock & Houghton
Joint Council Meeting
April 22, 2009
5:30 p.m.
Agenda as posted:

AGENDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HANCOCK CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009
5:30 P.M., UPPCO Building Conference Room (1st floor)
HOUGHTON, MI
JOINT MEETING WITH THE HOUGHTON CITY COUNCIL

1. Call to order by Mayor Laitila, Roll Call.
2. Receive presentation on Quincy Smelter.
3. Receive SmartZone update from Carlton Crothers, Executive Director
4. Receive update on PLWSA upgrade project from board chairperson C. Robert Baillod
5. Receive update on Franklin Township sewer project.
6. Review US 41 Traffic Detours in Houghton.
7. Review county road millage tax disbursement.
8. Consider PLWSA resolution.
9. Hear final Houghton/Hancock Video presentation.
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

1. Hancock Mayor William Laitila called this special joint meeting of the Cities of Hancock and Houghton Councils to order on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 in the UPPCO Bldg. Conference Room, 1st Floor at 5:30 p.m.

Hancock Councilors present: Hancock Councilors Belej, Freeman, Slivon, Laitila and McKenzie.

Absent: Councilors Hainault and Gemignani.

The Houghton Councilors present: Mayor Robert Backon, Eric Peterson, Craig Kurtz, Rachael Lankton, Robert X. Megowen, Gernot A. Joachim and Lee G. Hauswirth.

Also present: Hancock Manager Glenn Anderson, Hancock City Clerk Karen Haischer, Houghton Manager Scott MacInnes and Houghton City Clerk Kurt Kuure. Members of the media, C Robert Baillod, and guests.

2. Receive presentation on the Quincy Smelter.
 - Kim Hoagland (KNHP)
 - Both Cities pledged \$5000 other donations \$8000
 - Franklin Twp. received a grant from HUD for \$285,000 (no local match) for building stabilization.
 - EPA will cap stamp-sand outside the fence. They will do nothing inside the fence line. The KNHP will advise the Township on work.
3. SmartZone Update.
 - Carlton Crothers gave an update on SmartZone activities.
 - Total of 15 SmartZones in Michigan
 - Houghton/Hancock SmartZone has 160+ employees with 12 companies
 - Four companies have predicted new job growth
 - Awarded a \$500,000 grant from MEDC that has to be used in two years
Business support services - target high growth potential
 - Will hire one new full-time staff member for the two years
 - Public/Private 13+million

4. Update on the PLWSA upgrade project from Board Chairperson C. Robert Baillod
 - Project included force main, receiving methane, Houghton lift station.
 - Executed a contract with Franklin Twp., which was approved by both cities.
 - Possible expansion to Dollar Bay and Portage Twp. for use of the plant
5. Update on Franklin Township sewer project.
 - Bids were received well within construction estimates.
 - Loan closing scheduled for May 7th with a pre-construction meeting to follow
 - May 7th issue a Notice to Proceed to low bidder Siler Contracting
 - Project to be completed in October, 2009
 - Residents have 90 days to connect (penalties are outlined in ordinance/resolution)
6. US41 Traffic Detours in Houghton (Spring, Summer, Fall of 2009)
 - Mark Zenner - Houghton DPW Director
 - Tech project to be completed by August
 - City of Houghton project to be completed by October-November
 - Detour signs are being erected today to direct Traffic flows

Hancock Councilor Freeman left meeting.

7. Review County Road Millage Tax Disbursements.

Recommendation by both City Manager's to contact our State Representative and Senator to get the wording changed on the Act from SEV to taxable. If collected on taxable, should be disbursed by taxable.

Moved by Councilor Belej and seconded by Councilor McKenzie directing the City Manager to send a letter to our State Representative and Senator asking them to amend PA 283 to assess County Road millage on taxable and to disburse on taxable not SEV.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Belej approving Resolution #7-09 as follows:

**CITY OF HANCOCK
RESOLUTION # 7-09
NAMING THE PORTAGE LAKE WATER AND SEWER
ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**

WHEREAS, the Portage Lake Water and Sewer Authority (PLWSA) was formed by the cities of Houghton and Hancock in 1964, and

WHEREAS, the Authority is governed by a five (5) member Board of Directors, the fifth member selected by the four city representatives, and

WHEREAS, C. Robert Baillod has served as the fifth member and Chairperson of the PLWSA Board of Directors since April of 1976, and has worked closely with board members to carry out the board duties, and

WHEREAS, C. Robert Baillod has worked diligently with the Board of Directors and both cities to improve the sewage treatment capabilities, culminating in the construction in 1990 of a \$20 million state of the art treatment plant on the Isle Royale Sands, and

WHEREAS, C. Robert Baillod oversaw the recent \$2 million upgrade of the facility and pump stations, and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Chairperson, the PLWSA plant and employees have won various awards, including being selected in 2006 as the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 first place award for Operations & Maintenance excellence in medium size plants and coming in 2nd Nationally;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that C. Robert Baillod be honored for his leadership on the PLWSA Board of Directors and his significant contribution to improving water quality for both cities,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that jointly with the City Council of the City of Houghton, the Hancock City Council does hereby approve and direct that the administration building at the PLWSA be named:

The C. Robert Baillod Administrative Building

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor McKenzie and seconded by Councilor Belej approving Resolution #10-09 as follows:

Resolution #10-09
PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE CITY OF PORVOO, FINLAND
ON THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF
THE DIET OF PORVOO

Whereas, The City of Porvoo, Finland has been a “Sister City” to the City of Hancock, Michigan since 1990, and

Whereas, The City of Hancock cherishes the close personal relationship the two cities have developed over the past 19 years with exchanges of visits between city officials and private citizens of both cities, and

Whereas, The City of Porvoo was the location of a very important event in the history of the nation of Finland called the “Diet of Porvoo” which began on March 28-29, 1809, and

Whereas, Alexander I, Tsar of the Russian Empire, and Grand Duke of Finland, traveled to Porvoo, Finland to Proclaim the “Grand Duchy of Finland” at that time, and

Whereas, These events are recognized by historians as important first steps to securing an autonomous government for Finland, and

Whereas, These events were an important development in the founding of the free, democratic, and independent nation of Finland;

Now, Therefore, I, William Laitila, Mayor, and the Council of the City of Hancock, Michigan do recognize, honor and join the government and citizens of the City of Porvoo, Finland in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Diet of Porvoo.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried.

Moved by Hancock Councilor Belej and seconded by Hancock Councilor McKenzie that this joint meeting of the Hancock and Houghton City Councils be adjourned.

Time: 7:09 p.m.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried.

William Laitila, Mayor

Karen Haischer, CMC City Clerk