

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
OF MARCH 23, 2015**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Dave Lucchesi on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Debbie Mann, Ron Blau, Dave Lucchesi, Glenn Anderson, and David Sequin.

Absent: Dan Lorenzetti, Tony Wilmers, Bob Wenc and Lisa McKenzie

Guests: None

It was moved by Blau and seconded by Mann to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Blau and seconded by Mann to approve the February 15, 2015 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Blau to give an excused absence to Dan Lorenzetti.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

The Commission welcomed new member Daniel Sequin who lives at 918 Elm St. for an unexpired term ending February 15, 2017.

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

- Reviewed the January 8, 2015 US41/M-26 Corridor Committee meeting notes
- Reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015 MTEC SmartZone CEO report, indicating 2 new companies created and 3 companies expanded, with 15 new jobs in January.
- Heard that UPPCO signed a SmartZone lease on March 1<sup>st</sup> for the second floor of the Powerhouse building. They will start up accounting and information technology operations.
- Heard that Systems Control of Iron Mountain will be opening up an office at the SmartZone Lake Shore Center in April. The company designs and builds electrical

Transmission equipment, and has plans to add 80 new engineers in the next 6 years to meet growth projections.

-Heard that LaSalle Tech located in the Wisti Building, 101 Quincy St. was recently purchased by the Swedish Firm Cameron Tec. The new company plans to keep open the Hancock Office.

-Received an update on the UP Electrical issue where WE Engineers will now remain the owner of the PIPP which will close in 2020, but will invest in a new natural gas power plant with CCI and other investors.

-Heard the PIPP SSR ended on February 1<sup>st</sup>, but the smaller SSR fees for Escanaba and White Pine will continue.

-Heard the Governor has proposed that We Energies spin off of its UP Power System to a Michigan only based utility, if legislative changes are enacted.

-Heard the City has been exploring a MNRTF acquisition grant application for possible land acquisition of the Swedetown Creek Corridor. An effort was made in the early 2000's which failed.

-Heard that MDOT will be sampling 21,000 households' state wide for MI Travel counts, with 10% being asked to do GPS travel for 3 days.

-The Commission was reminded to sign up for the May 28<sup>th</sup> MSU Place making Strategy Development Workshop to be held in Hancock from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

-Reviewed funding sources for the 2016 Quincy St. project, including:

MDOT Road funding	\$5,900,000
MDOT TAP Streetscape proj.	\$1,312,773
Water RD Project	<u>\$3,800,000</u>
Total	\$11,012,773

-The City financing portion is the following:

Water RD Project	\$3,800,000
MDOT TAP grant local match	<u>\$262,555</u>
Total	\$4,062.555

-of the City portion \$1,850,000 will be in grant funds \$1,950,000 will be a loan and \$262,555 will be DDA match funds.

-Heard that Rural Development has offered a \$1,850,000 grant and \$1,950,000 loan for the water project. The obligation of funds should be made by May.

-Discussed the need to undertake a new master plan in conjunction with the 2017 Strategic Plan update.

The Commission reviewed the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot proposal which would raise the sales tax from 6% to 7%, and add over \$2.2 billion in new revenue, of which \$1.3 billion would be increased road and transit funding. If approved, the City would receive 60% more road funding per year. After 3 years if the proposal passes, the 5 villages, 2 cities, and the road comm. would receive \$7.5 million of new funds.

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The Commission reviewed the 45 page preliminary 2016 Quincy St. Streetscape project design prepared by OHM Advisory, and looked at the November 2014 SHPO project comments.

The Commission noted that the Finlandia University bond issue was postponed till late August, 2015 from March 2015.

It was moved by Sequin and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary