

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Deb Mann at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 26, 2016 with the following members present: Bob Wenc, Deb Mann, Lisa McKenzie, Dan Seguin, Tony Wilmers and Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Clark Korpela, Dave Lucchesi and Ron Blau
Guests: Allyson Jabusch

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Wenc to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Seguin to approve the August 22, 2016 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Heard LaCantina Mexican restaurant is expected to open later this year at 101 E. Quincy St.

-Heard that OHM Advisors are finishing the design for repaving White St. next summer. The City secured a \$187,500 MDOT Small Urban grant for this project.

-Heard the DPW crew completed replacing the storm sewer outlet pipe at the foot of Forest St.

-Received an update on the \$2.1 million water main replacement project and noted the water main will be replaced on Roberts St. between Birch to Calumet St.

-Received an update on the \$7.1 million downtown Quincy St. reconstruct project.

-Heard that the City of Houghton has decided to end the local Cross Walk Law after trying it for two summers.

-Heard MDOT will be bidding out the 4 bump outs on Hancock St. in October 2017 construction. The project will include a bike lane on the South side of Hancock Street from M-203 to Reservation St.

-Reviewed the July 14th and Sept. 8 US41/M203 Corridor meeting minutes.

-Heard Gitchee Gumees Cider Works will be bottling 3,000 bottles from last fall's apple crop, and expects to do 6,000 next year.

-Received a SAW grant update.

-Heard Vollwerth's Inc. has created 12 new jobs when only 10 were required to be created under the MEDC grant terms.

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- Heard that the sewer main work for Valley View Estates has been completed by the DPW Crew.
- Discussed the \$7.3 million annual SSR payment for White Pine Generating
- Heard the 2nd UP Natural Gas powered generator plant planned for construction and opened by 2020 may be built in the Baraga/Houghton County area.
- Heard the City of Houghton took ownership of a new \$1 million 2015 Pierce Aerial Fire Truck.
- Learned that Cypress Manor Nursing Home is now Lighthouse Nursing Home.
- Noted that Hancock is hosting the 2nd stage of the Lake Superior Performance Rally on Friday, October 14 at 1:30p.m. at the Houghton County Fair grounds.
- Heard Jim's Pizzas may have a new renter.
- Heard recycling tonnage has doubled in the City since Waste Management has begun weekly recycling pick up on Sept. 12th.
- Heard that the 2017 Bridgefest Parade will again not be able to traverse the City due to the Front Street reconstruction project.

The Commission received an update from OHM Advisors Master Plan consultant Heather Seyforth that she is currently incorporating the feed back from the 80 residents who participated in the Sept. 12th master plan community forum into the revised plan.

The Commission discussed the idea of the City applying for a DNR MNRTF Acquisition Grant for an estimated 125 acres of the Swedetown Creek gorge area to preserve for non motorized hiking, walking, dog walking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

It was moved by Wenc and seconded by Wilmers to recommend to the City Council to proceed with the acquisition grant and attempt to acquire the property.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

The Commission discussed a draft MTU Strategic Plan to go to 10,000 students by 2045, and the impact this would have on the housing both in the City and surrounding areas.

Bob Wenc encouraged the City to undertake rental code enforcement, and acquire all easements to allow Navy Street to extend from Tezcuco St. to Forest St.

Lisa McKenzie discussed the splash park/ ice rink concept and the need to identify more walking trail routes through the City.

Bob Wenc discussed the Porvoo Park lake fountain concept.

Deb Mann asked if Lower Ryan St. parking will remain the same near North Winds Bookstore.

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It was moved by Wilmers and seconded by Seguin to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary