

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF JULY 23, 2012**

The regular Planning Commission meeting held on Monday, July 23, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, with the following members present: Bill Baxandall, Terry Monson, Bob Wenc, Dan Lorenzetti, Lisa McKenzie, & Bill Laitila.

Absent: Tony Wilmers and Dave Lucchesi

Guests: John Haeussler and John Slivon

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Monson to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Wenc to approve the June 25, 2012 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There were no public comments.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the schedule for the 61st Annual Houghton County Fair scheduled for August 23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th.

-Reviewed the US41/M-26 Corridor Advisory meeting notes of June 14, 2012.

-Looked at this summers downtown waterfront Canal Rocks concert schedule at Porvoo Park.

-Noted that MDOT will be holding a regional public meeting in Houghton on Wednesday, August 15th to discuss the draft 2035 MDOT Transportation Plan.

-Reviewed the Planning Commission ordinance and noted that city residency is not a requirement for membership.

-John Haeussler updated the commission on the ongoing 2013 city Sesquicentennial planning activities and events.

-Heard that the KNHP has made acquisition of the Quincy Smelter property from Franklin Township its number one property acquisition priority to help facilitate the relocation of the Isle Royale National Park Headquarters. The Planning Commission noted that the land needs to be secured by the National Park Service soon to expedite the project as soon as possible.

-Heard an update on the 2013 FinnFest schedule of events, and noted that the Houghton Rotary Seafood Fest will remain for Father's Day weekend, but the Bridgefest

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Committee has agreed to hold the event as part of FinnFest the weekend after Father's Day weekend.

-Received an update on the city's water project and noted reconstruction continues on the 800 block of Summit St., that the intersection of Calumet/Cedar Streets had a storm water upgrade, that one block of the transmission main located on Park Ave. in Portage Twp. will be replaced and that the final part of the water project will be the replacement of several water valves in the city.

-Reviewed an update on the city's sewer rehab project, and heard that the final project will be to replace about one-half of the storm water pipe located South of Lake and Mill Street.

-Decided to hold election of officers at the next meeting.

The Commission was briefed on the Show Cause hearing the city council held on June 20th regarding the window openings for the building located at 228 Hancock St., owned by Soren Dresch. It was noted that Dresch did comply with the city's request to enclose all the window openings either with new windows or boards. Further, Dresch has expressed interest in applying for MSHDA grant funds to construct 4 new apartments. City staff will continue to discuss this option with him.

The Commission looked at the brochure from MSU Extension which has scheduled a citizen planner course at a cost of \$275 to be held at MTU starting September 12th thru October 24th, with 21 hours of instruction held during seven 3 hour time slots.

The Commission reviewed a request made by Matthew Dennis to have a city street renamed in Gordon Barkell's honor. Matthew had a signed note from Pat & Jan Campioni supporting the renaming of Valley View Dr. to Barkell Ave. The commission discussed the request and agreed to study the matter further and to look at other possible tributes to Mr. Barkell as well.

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Laitila to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary