

SPECIAL MEETING - HOUGHTON CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 - 6:00 P.M.
FRANKLIN SQUARE INN - HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

COMBINED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH CITY OF HANCOCK

PRESENT FOR
CITY OF
HOUGHTON:

Mayor Eric Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Backon, Councilors Rachel Lankton, Robert Megowen, Gernot Joachim and Lee Hauswirth.

City Manager Scott MacInnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Kurt Kuure.

Absent: Councilor Craig Kurtz

PRESENT FOR
CITY OF
HANCOCK:

Mayor Barry Givens, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa McKenzie, Councilors William Laitila, Sarah Baratono, James Hainault, and Ted Belej, Tom Gemignani.

City Manager Glenn Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer Karen Haischer.

ALSO PRESENT:

Representatives from the Daily Mining Gazette, WMPL, WOLV, Carlton Crothers, Jim Corless and Tom Parker of the Keweenaw Historical Park, Mary Sears.

OPPORTUNITY
FOR PUBLIC TO
ADDRESS
COUNCILS:

Mary Sears informed the Councils of a "Save the Quincy Smelter" dinner and auction to take place on October 12, 2007 at 6:30 at the MUB.

AGENDA:

Mayor Peterson added Item F.1 - Update on Bridge Repair.

Jim Corless, new Superintendent of the Keweenaw Historical Park introduced himself. Tom Parker of the Keweenaw Historical Park reported on the work being performed on the Quincy Mine site and new exhibits there.

Mr. Corless presented some of his 10 year goals for the Keweenaw Historical Park:

- Strong, cohesive, and coherent experience for visitors along the Keweenaw Peninsula
- Visitors find a traditional National Park experience
- Strategy for long-term protection of copper mining related resources
- Develop an education program for students
- Foster more diverse and dynamic interpretation
- Financial support network

Houghton City Manager Scott MacInnes presented a report from Cynthia Cote regarding the local downtown business associations meeting. They have held six meetings and are actively participating in marketing and will prepare a new brochure highlighting both downtowns. They have 12 Houghton businesses and six Hancock businesses taking part in the Bridgehop on Friday evenings.

Carlton Crothers of the SmartZone reported that the City of Houghton received a \$1,000,000 grant from the MEDC for the expansion of the Powerhouse Incubator. The project was put out for bids with the lowest bid coming from J.Clark at \$899,000. The project has two phases. The first phase will be completed in January and consists of the creation of the third floor as well as a complete remodeling of the second floor. By the end of February, Phase Two will be complete which is to finalize the basement as well as first floor modifications.

The Finlandia incubator is 85% rented. The other two incubators are 100% occupied. They are now looking to secure another piece of property.

Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson provided an update on the Calumet Police Post. The State is planning to leave the post in the Calumet area by looking for alternative buildings that would be more cost effective.

Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson reported that following the last joint Council meeting, Senator Levin held a meeting regarding the Quincy Smelter with representatives of the DEQ and National Park present. Franklin Township and the Park Service are going to now work together on a Plan of Action and put together a budget to provide to the Senator.

Jim Corless reported that the legislation for the Keweenaw Historic Park prohibits the Park from owning a contaminated site. The National Park cannot purchase land from government entities so they cannot buy the Quincy Smelter from Franklin Township. Mr. Corless said there is a slim chance of a joint visitor's center on the site. He is meeting with representatives of the DEQ and EPA to nail down what expectations there are for the remediation of this site. The EPA is willing to release the site. The DEQ is not willing to release the site as they believe there is other remediation work necessary including the capping of the stamp sand and slag piles. Their primary concern is removal of the asbestos.

He is looking at alternative uses for the site including historical interpretation of a stabilized ruin, partial restoration, or utilization of the shops and the warehouse. Franklin Township is interested in green space on the property for recreational purposes.

Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson said work on the Bridge will begin on Monday, September 17th and complete by Monday, October 15th. There will be lane closures during this time. Construction will be seven days a week during the daytime hours.

Subcommittees including the sewer subcommittee and police subcommittee will meet in the next 30 days.

The next combined Council Meeting will be held on February 6, 2008 in Hancock at 6:00 p.m.

Eric Peterson asked that the Department Heads meet with each other to discuss pooling of purchasing products to save both municipalities money.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lankton and seconded by Megowen.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Kurt Kuure
City Clerk