

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Gilbert X. Cheves at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Gilbert X. Cheves, Council Members Walter A. "Pete" Baker, Patricia A. Baribeau, Leo J. Evans, and Brady L. Nelson.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager James V. O'Toole, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Reverend Lewis Hague of Blessed Hope Baptist Church gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Evans moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Study Session Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2010, and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2010, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Evans moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the Council Agenda as submitted.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Council Members gave a Meritorious Service Award to Thomas D. Jaeger upon his retirement, and proclaimed August 19, 2010, as Thomas D. Jaeger Day, in the City of Escanaba.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION - None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing - Second Reading and Adoption – Ordinance No. 1111, an Ordinance to Amend the City Property Maintenance Code to Provide for an Expanded Definition of Unsafe Structures.

The provisions of Ordinance No. 1111 expanded the definition of unsafe structures

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for uncompleted, abandoned, dilapidated and deteriorated buildings which adversely affects property values within the City and threatens the health, safety and general welfare of its residents.

Mayor Cheves asked if any member of the public wished to speak to City Ordinance No. 1111.

No public comment was heard.

PH-1 "By Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

Resolved, That Ordinance No. 1111, given its second reading and public hearing at this meeting, be and it is hereby adopted, and that it be published in accordance with the requirements of State law and the City Charter."

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Baker, Evans, Cheves
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Herewith Ordinance No. 1111, adopted by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPANDED DEFINITION OF UNSAFE STRUCTURES.

Full text in Ordinance Record "J."

Public Hearing – Working Waterfront Economic Zone Initiative.

Public input was sought on the concept of developing a Working Waterfront Economic Zone by retaining the professional services of Mr. Kevin Korpi of Acuitas, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$33,600. Under the initiative, Mr. Korpi would assist Escanaba in garnering bipartisan support in Lansing, including legislation which will support the development of the Escanaba North Shore which could provide a variety of tax incentives to manufacturers and other businesses that expand or move into the working waterfront zone.

Mr. Korpi addressed Council and briefly spoke of his company and the scope of work towards developing a Working Waterfront Economic Zone

Mayor Cheves asked if any member of the public wished to speak.

None was heard

The following was reviewed:

- Advantages of a Renaissance Zone, and long term benefits. Usually seen as an

- investment tool;
- Reviewed tax, and business expansion incentives;
- Existing business and new business could benefit from economic growth;
- Opportunity for New technology and industrial growth.

PH-2 Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, to retain the professional services of Mr. Kevin Korpi of Acuitas, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$33,600. Under the initiative, Mr. Korpi would assist Escanaba in garnering bipartisan support in Lansing, including legislation which will support the development of the Escanaba North Shore which could provide a variety of tax incentives to manufacturers and other businesses that expand or move into the working waterfront zone.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Baribeau, Nelson, Baker, Evans, Cheves
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval – City Insurance Program – Property/General Liability.

Annually, the City Council authorizes the purchase of property/general liability insurance to cover all City operations. Administration recommended approval of an insurance contract with Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, the City's carrier since 1995. Gross premiums under the proposal would decrease by \$3,354.00, to \$271,224.00. This represents a decrease of 1.2 percent. This purchase was included in the FY2010-11 Budget.

City Controller briefly reviewed premiums and rates charged City Departments.

NB-1 Nelson moved, Evans seconded, to approve of an insurance contract with Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for the purchase of property/general liability insurance to cover all City operations, in the amount of \$271,224.00.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Nelson, Evans, Baribeau, Baker, Cheves
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Broadcasting of City Council Meetings – Charter Communications.

Charter Communications required municipalities throughout the Upper Peninsula to pay for services to televise City Council Meetings effective November 1, 2010. Under the

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terms of the proposal to the City of Escanaba, Charter Communications sought a payment of \$150 per meeting or \$3,600 annually to broadcast live City Council meetings. Administration recommended approval of a 12- month term.

NB-2 Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve a 12 month proposal from Charter Communications in an amount of \$150 per meeting or \$3,600 annually to broadcast live City Council meetings.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Baker, Evans, Cheves

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Use of the North Shore Boat Launch - Midwest Walleye Series Tournament.

The Midwest Walleye Series and Bay De Noc Great Lakes Sports Fishermen have submitted a request to use the North Short Boat Launch for a Walleye Fishing Tournament on October 2, 2010. Administration recommended Council approval, contingent upon submitting proper insurance, and clean-up after the event.

NB-3 Evans moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve a request from the Midwest Series and Bay De Noc Great Lakes Sports Fishermen to use the North Short Boat Launch for a Walleye Fishing Tournament on October 2, 2010, contingent upon submitting proper insurance, and clean-up after the event.

Approval – Assessor Job Description.

With the pending retirement of City Assessor Elizabeth Keller, Administration sought Council approval of a revised job description which would be used in recruiting and hiring a replacement State of Michigan certified Level III Assessor. In accordance with the City Charter, Chapter II. Plan of Government, Section 13, Council was responsible for appointing and hiring personnel for the position of Assessor.

The following was discussed:

- The sub-committee did meet with City Administration and forwarded the revised job description;
- Upon Council approval, job notices would be sent out which would include the revised job description.

NB-4 Baker moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve a revised job description which would be used in recruiting and hiring a replacement State of Michigan certified Level III Assessor.

Update – Sale of Power Plant – Electric Department.

City Manager O'Toole provided a community update on the status of the sale of the Escanaba Power Plant, and proposed Public Hearings.

Setting of Public Hearing – Industrial Development District – Brute Industries, 2003 23rd. Avenue North.

Administration requested Council set September 2, 2010, as the date for a public hearing on a potential Industrial Development District for a property controlled by Brute Industries, 2003 23rd. Avenue North. Establishment of this district would allow this manufacturer to proceed with various applications, including an Industrial Facilities Tax exemption in the future.

NB-6 Evans moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to set September 2, 2010, as the date for a public hearing on a potential Industrial Development District for a property controlled by Brute Industries, 2003 23rd. Avenue North.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES - None

BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Members reviewed City Board and Commission meetings each attended since the last City Council Meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Encouraged everyone to attend the UP State Fair;
- Updated residents on status of the Stephenson Avenue Project Update;
- Family Day and fireworks were scheduled on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

Hearing no further public comments, the Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Gilbert X. Cheves, Mayor