

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2012**

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

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

Absent: None

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

City Clerk Robert S. Richards gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2012, and Special Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2012, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION - None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Roll, on behalf of Earth Hour 2012, asked Council to support Earth Hour 2012. Ms. Roll stated, if approved, this would be the fourth year of support from the City of Escanaba. Ms. Roll advised Earth Hour was an international and local symbolic event organized by World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues. Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 pm on March 31, 2012 and to encourage citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing - Citizen Participation – 2012-13 Fiscal Year Budget Preparation.

Each year, Council held public hearings to facilitate input from its citizens for the City's next fiscal year budget. This was the first of five (5) scheduled public hearings. The next two (2) Council public hearings would be held on February 16, 2012, and March 15, 2012.

This being a public hearing, Mayor Evans asked if there was any public comment.

Molly Larsen of the Bonifas Art Center asked Council for their continued support of the Art Center in the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget. Mrs. Larsen reviewed the history in which the City of Escanaba took part in establishing the Bonifas Art Center, and of its many programs it brings to members of the public.

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Evans closed the public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation – Escanaba Planning Commission – 2011 Performance Report.

Steve Buckee, Chairperson of the Escanaba Planning Commission, presented to City Council and the people of Escanaba the annual 2011 Planning Commission Performance Report.

Presentation- Escanaba Downtown Development Authority – 2011 Performance Report.

Peter Strom, Chairperson of the Escanaba Downtown Development Authority (DDA), presented to City Council and the people of Escanaba the annual 2011 DDA Performance Report.

Approval – Mutual Aid Agreement – Department of Public Safety.

Administration sought Council approval of a formal Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Escanaba, the Gladstone Department of Public Safety and the Delta County Sheriff's Department. Under the terms of the agreement, the Escanaba Public Safety Department would assist in emergency aid when called upon by a participating agency.

Public Safety Director Ken Vanderlinden asked Council to formalize the cooperation in a written Mutual Aid Agreement. Director Vanderlinden also reviewed the history of the Mutual Aid Agreement.

NB-3 Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to adopt a formal Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Escanaba, the Gladstone Department of Public Safety and the Delta County Sheriff's Department.

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

Ayes: Baribeau, Nelson, Baker, Beauchamp, Evans

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval - Resolution of Support – Earth Hour 2012.

The City of Escanaba was again requested to participate in Earth Hour 2012. City residents and business owners were encouraged to support the Earth Hour 2012 campaign on Saturday March 31, 2012, by turning off all lighting fixtures in their homes and businesses between 8:30 -9:30 p.m.

NB-4 After expressing Council concerns of making a political statement, and the goals of the World Wildlife Fund, Council Member Nelson moved, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**RESOLUTION
CITY OF ESCANABA MICHIGAN
EARTH HOUR 2012**

WHEREAS, our community is deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change and the future health and well-being of our planet and believes energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, and a demand by the voting public for action by elected officials are important elements to combating climate change; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Hour is both an international and local symbolic event organized by World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses, individuals and government to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives and operations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 pm on March 31, 2012 and to encourage citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Hour will be used as a tool to inform local residents and businesses about existing information and tools already available within the community to assist them in increasing energy efficiency and decreasing emissions and use of natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, Extinguishing non-essential lights in all city government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for one hour and urging all businesses and citizens to do the same will send a clear message that the people of Escanaba in the State of

Michigan in the United States of America are concerned about climate change, stand with the rest of the world in seeking solutions and are demanding that elected leaders act immediately to take measures that will help fight global climate change, including the passage of legislation and good-faith participation in global climate treaty negotiations; and,

WHEREAS, Turning non-essential lights off in all city government buildings, public schools and public landmarks will serve as an important rallying point for the city-wide energy conservation event Earth Hour; and, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the City of Escanaba endorses efforts by World Wildlife Fund through Earth Hour to raise awareness around global climate change and energy efficiency; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Escanaba encourages all city employees to turn off all non-essential lighting in city government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 PM on March 31, 2012 to conserve energy and raise awareness about global climate change as part of the city-wide energy conservation event: Earth Hour; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Escanaba City Council declares March 31, 2012 to be “WWF’s Earth Hour” day in the City of Escanaba.

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Evans
Nays: Baker, Beauchamp

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Approval – Liquor License Transfer - 2011 “Class C” Licensed Business – 201 North Lincoln Road.

On January 9, 2012, the Local Liquor License Review Board met and unanimously recommended City Council transfer ownership of a 2011 “Class C” licensed business, located at 201 North Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI 49829, Delta County from CAPPUCCINO S.D., INC to PALM’S ENTERPRISES, INC. Administration recommended approval of the transfer in accordance with the provisions of MCL 436.1501 of the Liquor Control Code of 1998.

NB-5 Nelson moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve a request to transfer ownership of a 2011 “Class C” licensed business, located at 201 North Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI 49829, Delta County, from CAPPUCCINO S.D., INC to PALM’S ENTERPRISES, INC., in accordance with the provisions of MCL 436.1501 of the Liquor Control Code of 1998.

Update – Power Generation/Plant Operation Options/Power Purchase – Electric Department.

City Manager O'Toole updated the City Council and public on the status of the Power Plant and power purchase agreement. He advised the Power Plant was still sitting idle. The CT combustion turbine was repaired and offered up to MISO for power.

Discussion -Setting Date for Public Hearing – Downtown Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

DDA Administration requested Council set the date of March 1, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. as a public hearing date on the Downtown Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

NB-7 Beauchamp moved, Baker seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to set the date of March 1, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. as a public hearing date on the Downtown Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

Discussion – Professional Services – Acuitas LLC.

Administration sought Council approval to continue a professional services agreement with Acuitas, LLC to assist in garnering bipartisan support in Lansing, including the creation of legislation which will support the development of the Escanaba working waterfront.

NB-8 Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, to continue a professional services agreement with Acuitas, LLC to assist in garnering bipartisan support in Lansing, including the creation of legislation which will support the development of the Escanaba working waterfront, on a monthly basis in a total amount not to exceed \$25,000, through September 2012.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

- Proclamation to John Baker for fifty years in performing duties of Aerie Secretary of the Escanaba Eagles 1088;
- City Council thanked the Planning Commission and DDA for their annual reports;
- Encouraged members of the public to recycle;

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Leo J. Evans, Mayor