

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 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.

Baker moved, Nelson seconded, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2012, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION - None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Each year, Council holds public hearings to facilitate input from its citizens for the City's next fiscal year budget. This was the second of five (5) scheduled public hearings. The next Council public hearing will be held on March 15, 2012.

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

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

Council Member Nelson encouraged members to come forward to speak on any budget issues during the remaining City Budget hearings.

Public Hearing - Condemnation – 700 Ludington Street.

On January 5, 2012, the City Council set February 16, 2012 as a public hearing date on the possible condemnation and demolition of a building located at 700 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI. On February 1, 2012, the Escanaba Downtown Development Authority recommended that Council condemn the building and have it removed.

City Code Official Blaine DeGrave reviewed the property history and efforts made to bring the building up to code. Mr. DeGrave, after his presentation, requested Council declare the property a public nuisance and have the property condemned. Bids were received for the demolition, and those costs would be incurred to the City. The City would put a lien on the property for the demolition costs. It was advised the property would eventually be placed at a tax sale.

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

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

PH-2 Nelson moved, Baker seconded, after a Public hearing was held, to condemn and demolish the building located at 700 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Hearing – Five Year Recreation Plan.

Administration recommended Council approval to adopt and incorporate the updated Five Year Recreation Plan into the Escanaba Comprehensive Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources required municipalities to have an updated recreation plan every five years to remain eligible for recreation/park programs. The Recreation Advisory Board recommended Council approval on the plan.

Recreation Director Penegor briefly reviewed the Five Year Recreation Plan process.

PH-3 By Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Beauchamp:

**CITY OF ESCANABA FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

WHEREAS, the Escanaba City Council has reviewed the City of Escanaba Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2012-2016 which recognizes various City recreation needs, and

WHEREAS, the Escanaba City Council is committed to the improvement and expansion of recreational opportunities in response to expressed community interests; and

WHEREAS, a five-year recreation plan is required to be eligible to apply for recreation grants administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management, and

WHEREAS, after receiving public comment, the Escanaba City Council voted to adopt the City of Escanaba Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2012-2016.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Escanaba City Council hereby adopts the City of Escanaba Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2012-2016 as its official recreation planning document to be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with copies to the Delta County Planning Commission and the CUPPAD Regional Commission.

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

Ayes: Nelson, Beauchamp, Baker, Baribeau, Evans

Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application.

Administration sought Council approval to submit an “Our Town” grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts, in collaboration with the Bonifas Arts Center, the Bay Area Arts Association and the Esky 150 Organization.

Library Director Carolyn Stacey briefly reviewed the grant application and its different components.

NB-1 Nelson moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to submit an “Our Town” grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts, in collaboration with the Bonifas Arts Center, the Bay Area Arts Association and the Esky 150 Organization.

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 sale of the Power Plant, the MISO “Y” proposal, and letters of interest received.

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

Mayor Evans reviewed vacancies on City Board and Commissions. Mayor Evans asked members of the public who were encouraged to serve, to make application to the City Clerk if they were interested.

BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

City Resident Don Racicot commented on the Sale of the Power Plant stating the previous two proposed sales did not go through. He suggested streaming the process so a sale would occur, so the City Manager and Department Heads could devote their time and efforts on other City issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Members of the public were encouraged to review the Annual City Audit which was available on the City Web Site;
- Council Members asked Department Heads to update their City Web Pages;
- City offices will be closed on Monday, but garbage pickup would remain the same.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Leo J. Evans, Mayor