

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2012**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted March 1, 2012, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Leo J. Evans at 3:00 p.m. in room C101 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 Controller Mike Dewar, City Library Director Carolyn Stacey, and Adult Services Librarian Monique Ciofu

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Baker moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the agenda as submitted.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEW BUSINESS

Update – County-wide Library Millage.

Administration updated the City Council on the current status of the proposed county-wide millage for the Escanaba Public Library and the Gladstone Public School Library. Additionally, Administration reviewed the structure of the library's existing service area, including township penal fine contracts.

- Manager O'Toole reviewed discussions from the February 13, 2012 Joint Meeting with the County Board:
 - County Township Officials were opposed to the proposed Library Millage proposal;
 - The penal fine distribution, County Township contracts, and City Service Areas were reviewed;
 - Written verification and clarification from the Michigan State Librarian was given to the County Administrator regarding their question of defining "local support" under PA 89 1977;
 - It was the consensus of all parties involved to have a decision within 30 days, but to date after unanswered phone calls and emails, no meetings have been scheduled nor any decision made.
- The City was informed that Masonville Township had changed its service area from the City of Escanaba to Gladstone Schools. Masonville Township moving to the Gladstone service area changes Escanaba Library status from a category V to a

category IV library;

- Library Director Stacey reviewed the proposed defined service area, and advised the Gladstone Schools still supports the Library Millage initiative;
- The City and Gladstone School System believed the strong point of the millage was that County residents could use any Library if the Library Millage was approved;
- Library Director Stacey reviewed the Penal Fines Revenue Flow Chart, and current City Service Area contracts, and her upcoming meetings with Township Officials;
- Administration advised they sent a letter to Masonville Township library card holders explaining the contract with the City Library was terminated by the Masonville Township Officials, and that their library services moved to the Gladstone School Library.

Manager O'Toole stated decisions needed to be made so the City can move forward with its upcoming fiscal year budget;

- What was in the best interest for the City of Escanaba;
- Memorandum of understanding with City of Escanaba and Gladstone School System needed to be formalized regarding any further changes to the proposed service area;
- Administration advised in order for the City to obtain State Aide as a Category IV Library some changes would need to be made;
- Council received an explanation on how the Library Cooperative worked for professional and Technical assistance;
- A City Council Work Session would be scheduled in 30 days to review meetings with Township Officials, results from a proposed survey, and communications with County Board and Gladstone Schools;
- City Council Members were frustrated with the lack of information from the County Board. The Millage question was brought to them over a year ago. County Board should be asked to make their decision. The City needed an answer so it could prepare for another Budget Year;

Manager O'Toole stated he would schedule an April 16th Council Work Session to bring Council up to speed, and bring to a regular Council meeting, possibly April 19, for a decision.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Hearing no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____

Leo J. Evans, Mayor