

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Special Council Meeting
Thursday, August 23, 2012**

Pursuant to a meeting notice posted on August 13, 2012, the Council of the City of Escanaba convened in special session in Room 101 of City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Leo J. Evans, Council Members Walter A. "Pete" Baker, Patricia A. Baribeau, Ronald J. Beauchamp (arrived at 6:41 pm), and Brady L. Nelson.

Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Manager O'Toole, with the absence of Council Member Beauchamp, asked to move agenda item 3 to 10.

Nelson moved, Baker seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council agenda as amended.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARING(S) - None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – City Council Meeting Times/Meeting Overview.

A discussion on how often and when the Council meets for regular and special meetings occurred. Council Members also discussed their Rules of Procedure. The following was also reviewed.

- Council Members asked that Administration be mindful of the meeting times so members of the public could attend the special meetings and work sessions;
- Members of the public had access to Council Meetings via the local cable channel, internet web casting, and provided backup information on the City Web Site;
- Administration stated they were continuing to improve and provide public access to information and meetings. Administration advised they were also gathering information so Council meetings could be viewed anytime from the City Web

Site.

After further discussion on Council Meeting dates, Council asked to change the November 15, 2012, regular meeting to November 13, 2012. Council Members also asked to change the July 4, 2013, regular meeting to July 3, 2013.

Discussion – Boards and Commissions – Vacant Positions.

The board, commission and committee membership roster and position vacancies were reviewed.

- Discussed term limits on City Board and Commissions;
- Try to use Facebook and Twitter as much as possible ;
- Discussed accountability of who was responsible to attract members on City Boards and Commissions. Council, Manager, and Department Heads should all be attracting members of the public to serve, and to forward their questions and desires to the Mayor;
- Discussed keeping an eye on Board and Commission absenteeism.

Discussion – Advanced Metering (Smart Meters).

With the arrival of Council Member Beauchamp, Agenda item #3 was discussed as presented on the agenda.

The Council was updated on the recent Michigan Public Service Commission report on advanced metering and the status of H.B.'s 5411 and 5439.

- Council had concerns of privacy issues. The Michigan Public Service Commission issued a white paper on the subject and House Bills which were recently proposed were briefly reviewed;
- Administration was told that nothing was going to be acted upon before the November Elections. The City was hesitant to purchase any meter that would not be approved by State Legislation;
- Administration would continue to monitor State legislation and report back to Council;
- Water/Wastewater Superintendent stated Administration had purchased new meters, but they were of a generation that did not include Advanced Metering.

Discussion – Donated Public Art, Monument and Memorial Policy.

The Council was updated on a DRAFT policy concerning the aesthetic development of the community as it related to donated public art, monuments and memorials.

- A Draft Policy was sent to the Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, and Downtown Development Authority;
- Manager O'Toole suggested to continue obtaining public input, and then forward Policy to Council with the Public Input;
- Discussed the possibility of donated public art could be referred to an Art Committee, appointed by Council.

Discussion – Trailer Ordinance.

A discussion on the possibility of updating the Escanaba Trailer Ordinance took place. The following was reviewed:

- Community must determine its level of tolerance on the issue;
- Council viewed examples from around the community;
- Need to take into account safety;
- Suggested a time period for loading, unloading and cleaning, based on public input;
- Reviewed possible clearance rule;
- Need to obtain further public input;
- James Hellerman suggested education instead of over regulation. The Community needed to understand the rules and zoning codes as it related to parking of trailers, and how unsightly they could become;
- Current Ordinance had not been revised since 1969. A revised ordinance should take into account boats and other recreational activities;
- Complaints of motor homes, campers, boats and utility trailers parked in the City were currently addressed on a complaint basis only. Administration did not have the resources to routinely enforce codes;
- Council Members discussed if the City should be trying to enforce what could be done now, under the current ordinance. Citizens may not know the rules. Total numbers of problems throughout the City may not warrant a new ordinance;
- Administration could take a 45 day comment period and would present information to Council;
- There were safety issues to consider. Issue also should be sent to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for a recommendation.

Discussion – Noise Ordinance.

A discussion on the possibility of updating the Escanaba Noise Ordinance took place. The following was discussed:

- This was another City ordinance which was extremely old;
- Again, Administration wished to have a public comment period and bring information to Council;
- Administration suggested revising the ordinance referencing decibels similar to

what the City of Gladstone adopted;

- May need to review certain special exceptions, band concerts at park or at the fairgrounds.

Discussion – Outdoor Burning, Open Burning and Wood-Fired Boiler Ordinance.

A discussion on the possibility of creating and adopting an ordinance to regulate air pollution and fire hazards from open burning and outdoor burning took place. The following was discussed:

- Zoning Ordinance Coordinator Blaine DeGrave reviewed problems with outdoor boilers and smoke issues resulting from them;
- Current ordinance was not specific enough to bring into court;
- Proposed Ordinance for discussion was taken from parts of the MDEQ ordinance;

Discussion – Peddlers, Solicitors, Transient Merchants, Vendors, ETC. Ordinance.

A discussion on the possibility of adding Mobile Food Vehicle requirements to the existing Ordinance took place. The following was discussed:

- Administration stated this was a new trend and the issue was not addressed in the Current City Ordinance;
- Currently monitoring what other communities were doing.

Discussion – Performance Review Forms – City Manager, City Clerk and City Assessor.

Various performance review forms were reviewed so as to update the current review forms used for the City Manager, City Clerk and City Assessor's annual merit review.

- Council had asked for samples from other communities;
- Discussed the use of self evaluations and the meeting of goals and objectives;
- Administration would forward sample questions to Council.

Discussion – City Tour – Aesthetics, Repair and Existing Conditions.

Administration and Council discussed on the possibility of having a city tour consisting of City Council members, Administration and various boards and commission members took place. The purpose of the tour would be to view existing conditions throughout the City collectively.

BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing no further public comment, and the time being 8:57 p.m., the Council adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Leo J. Evans, Mayor