

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, December 20, 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.

Pastor Jacob Comer of the New Life Assembly of God Church gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beauchamp moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from December 6, 2012, and Special Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2012, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Manager O'Toole asked to move NB-4 to the end of the meeting.

Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council Agenda as amended.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval – Transitional Housing/Homelessness Task Force Appointments – City Manager.

Administration requested the City Council appoint members to a Homeless Task Force whose charge would be to research and address the issues of homelessness in the City of Escanaba and come up with potential ways the City and Community partners can address those issues.

- A list of over twenty individuals expressed interest on being appointed to the Homeless Task Force;

- Council Members discussed that a large group may not be effective if the Task Force was to move quickly;
- The Task Force mission would be part of the organizational meeting;

NB-1 After discussion, Baribeau moved, Baker seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the list of members as submitted to the Homeless Task Force whose charge would be to research and address the issues of homelessness in the City of Escanaba and come up with potential ways the City and Community partners can address those issues. The Members included:

Brady Nelson, Mayor Pro-Tem
James V. O'Toole, Escanaba City Manager
Kel Smyth, Escanaba Planning Commission
Tom Warstler, Escanaba Planning Commission
Brian Black, Escanaba Board of Appeals
Judi Good, Manager Harbor Tower
Terry Sanders, Retired Michigan State Trooper
Holly Peoples, Michigan Works
Nisha Coolman, Michigan Coalition Against Homeless
Elizabeth Graham, Michigan Coalition Against Homeless
Bobbie Stacey, Michigan Coalition Against Homeless
Joanie Stacey, Escanaba High School
Joe Klem, Business Representative
Sally Shultz, Resident
Jim Rettig, Unitarian Universalist Church
Ray Young, Resident
Allan Kesick, Resident
Steve Buckbee, Escanaba Planning Commission
Matt Marenger, Business Representative
Mary Busick, Voices for Youth

Approval – Update – Power Generation/Plant Operation Options – City Administration.

City Council and public was updated on the sale of the Power Plant and related items. Escanaba Green Energy (EGE) representative Charles DeTiege reviewed the following:

- EGE continued to work with its lender on the \$30 million loan which would be used to purchase the property and convert the coal-fueled facility to burn biomass. In addition to the loan paperwork, property insurance and title insurance needed to be finalized;
- It was advised, both sides needed to review the 14 day notice to switch the plant's ownership from the City to EGE. The Notice was required by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc., an interconnection agency which buys and sells energy on the power market;

- The City also wanted assurances that the Power Plant would indeed change owners and wished to make sure EGE funds and documents were available before 14 day notice was given to MISO;
- Based on opinion from Attorney Peterson, Council would not need to approve another extension.

Approval – Delta County Resolution of Support – Unified Tax Assessment and Equalization System.

Delta County sought a City of Escanaba Council Resolution of Support for a unified tax assessment and equalization system. James O'Loughlin of Allied Information Solutions provided a brief review of his company, information of the pilot project with Masonville Township, and Competitive Grant Assistance Program (CGAP) to create a Unified Tax Assessment and Equalization System. The ultimate goal was to make sure everyone was taxed equally. There would be no cost to the City by adopting the resolution, and Mr. O'Loughlin reviewed details of the CGAP program. He also advised he would be willing to help the City with the information requested, and be at as many meetings as possible to help the City of Escanaba.

Assessor Norden reviewed the City Assessment Department parcels and information Mr. O'Loughlin's company was requesting. Assessor Norden stated she was willing to work with Allied Information Solutions but was not sure on how much additional work would be involved. All information provided to Allied Information Solutions would be all public information, not confidential information.

Council Members discussed the lack of communication and information received by the County. Council Members stated the County was again requesting City approval of an item at the last minute. During discussion, it was stated the City wanted to cooperate with the County and did not want to be the community that put a halt to the Grant Program. The only cost to the City would be the time involved by the City Assessor's Office. After further discussion, the following resolution was approved:

NB-4 By Council Member Baribeau, seconded by Council Member Baker;

**City of Escanaba
County of Delta
Resolution of Support of Delta County's CGAP Grant**

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Department of Treasury has given preliminary notice of its intent to award a Competitive Grant Assistance Program (CGAP) grant to Delta County for development of a Unified Tax Assessment and Equalization System, and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan requires each municipality's governing body to approve a resolution authorizing participation in the proposed project prior to finalizing the award of grants from the State of Michigan's CGAP, and

WHEREAS, Escanaba City hereby acknowledges that it:

1. Has filed its annual financial report (F65) or audit per the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act or the Uniform System of Accounting Act.
2. Has filed its financial plan (deficit elimination plan) per the Glenn Steil State Revenue Sharing Act.
3. Is not delinquent in making payment that are due on loans issued pursuant to the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.
4. Does not have a payment due and owing to the state and thus is eligible to participate in a CGAP grant-funded project.
5. Agrees to cooperate in the development of the Delta County Unified Tax Assessment and Equalization System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Escanaba hereby authorizes participation in the Delta County Unified Tax Assessment and Equalization System and on behalf of the City authorizes the City Clerk to provide this resolution indicating its approval to the State of Michigan.

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

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

RESOLUTION DECALRED ADOPTED.

Discussion/Action – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Teamster’s Local 486 – Public Works and Clerical Unit.

Administration requested the City Council go into closed session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Escanaba and Teamster’s Local 486 – the Public Works and Clerical Unit.

Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, to go into closed session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Escanaba and Teamster’s Local 486 – the Public Works and Clerical Unit.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The time was 8:39 p.m.

Council came back into open session at 8:52 p.m.

NB-3 Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Escanaba and Teamster's Local 486 – the Public Works and Clerical Unit.

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

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, 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

- Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Leo J. Evans, Mayor