

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, January 3, 2013**

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 Controller Mike Dewar, City Attorney Ralph B.K. Peterson, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Deputy Clerk Tammy Weissert gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2012, as amended.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

PRESENTATION OF A SERVICE AWARD

A Meritorious Service Award to Bonnie Wennick Kutz was made by Mayor Evans in recognition of their participation and organization of the 54th Annual Escanaba Downtown Christmas Parade.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

John Connelly, who lived on the corner of 1st Avenue South and 26th Street, commended the City Council and the City for helping solve part of the traffic problems on that corner. Mr. Connelly suggested more police presence to ensure compliance to the new four-way stop.

Rita Miller, resident of West Highland, also the Chairman of the Delta County TRIAD Group, thanked everyone who worked with them, petition signers and all who shared their interest. The problem she saw currently was the need for more police at 7:30 a.m. when the students go to school.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval - Traffic Control Order (TCO) – No. 980 - Department of Public Safety.

Administration sought Council approval of Traffic Control Order No. 980. The TCO called for stops signs to be installed on the east and west corners of 1st Avenue South at South 26th Street. On November 13, 2012, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommended City Council approval of the order.

Captain Segorski gave a brief overview on the Traffic Flow Study at the intersection. Captain Segorski stated the intersection had become busier with the Credit Union gaining more business which increased the traffic flow and pedestrian traffic.

NB-1 Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Traffic Control Order No. 980, an order for stops signs to be installed on the east and west corners of 1st Avenue South at South 26th Street.

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

Ayes: Baribeau, Nelson, Baker, Beauchamp, Evans

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Tree Trimming Bid – Electric Department.

On November 29, 2012, four (4) bids for tree trimming near City power lines in various locations throughout the City were sent out and advertised. On December 11, 2012, one (1) bid was received. Administration recommended the bid received from Bugle Contracting of Cornell, MI, be approved in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. This was a budgeted 2012/13 item.

Josh Krajnaik, from the City Electric Department, gave a brief project overview and stated the project would take several weeks.

NB-2 Nelson moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve the Tree Trimming bid received from Bugle Contracting of Cornell, MI, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

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

Ayes: Nelson, Beauchamp, Baker, Baribeau, Evans

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Scheduling of Public Hearing - Citizen Participation - 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget Preparation.

Each year, the City Council scheduled public hearings to facilitate input from its citizens for the City's next fiscal year budget. The first of five (5) scheduled public hearings was scheduled for January 17, 2013. Additional City Council public hearings were scheduled for February 21, 2013, and March 21, 2013.

NB-3 Beauchamp moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to schedule public hearings for January 17, 2013, February 21, 2013, and Mary 21, 2013, for citizen input on the 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget.

Approval – 2013 Lake Management (Weed Control) - Marina.

Administration sought Council approval to retain PLM – Lake & and Management Corporation, of Caledonia, MI, in an amount not to exceed \$15,605 to conduct the second year herbicidal treatment of the Escanaba Marina basin.

Harbor Master Larry Gravatt stated depending on the new weed growth observed in the spring, the costs of services could be less. Mr. Gravatt stated the herbicide treatment helped get rid of the invasive weeds, but a couple native species became a problem and had to be harvested. Mr. Gravatt also stated the boaters were pleased with the weed control conducted in the harbor.

NB-4 Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, to approve to retain PLM – Lake & and Management Corporation, of Caledonia, MI, in an amount not to exceed \$15,605 to conduct the second year herbicidal treatment of the Escanaba Marina basin.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

City Controller Mike Dewar updated the City Council and public on the status of the Power Plant and power purchase agreement. Mr. Dewar advised Escanaba Green Energy stated progress was being made and hoped the sale can be finalized by the next Joint City Council and Electrical Advisory Committee meeting. After discussion with Administration and City Attorney Peterson no action was taken. A joint meeting of Council and the Electrical Advisory Committee was scheduled for mid January.

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

Scott Carlson encouraged everyone to drop off pull tabs from pop cans and paper towel rolls to Lake State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Encouraged everyone to check out the Esky 150 website.
- Thanked the Daily Press for the article they put in the paper regarding the Esky 150.
- Thanked the Citizens for their concerns regarding 1st Avenue South and 26th Street and thanked Public Safety for listening to the people and helping out.
- Thanked City Controller Mike Dewar and Deputy Clerk for coming in tonight.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Leo J. Evans, Mayor