

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 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 Manager James V. O'Toole, City Attorney Ralph B.K. Peterson, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Reverend Scott Harmon of the Central United Methodist Church gave the invocation and led Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Nelson moved, Baker seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Special Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2013, and Regular Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2013, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Nelson 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 – 2013-14 Fiscal Year Budget Preparation.

Each year, Council held 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 21, 2013.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation – Escanaba Planning Commission – 2012 Performance Report.

Vice-Chairperson Patrick Connor of the Escanaba Planning Commission presented to City Council and people of Escanaba their annual 2012 Planning Commission Performance Report.

Presentation – Escanaba Downtown Development Authority – 2012 Performance Report.

Vice Chairperson Charles Chapman of the Escanaba Downtown Development Authority presented to City Council and people of Escanaba their annual 2012 DDA Performance Report.

Council Members thanked members of the Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority for all their work.

Approval – Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Contract #13-5010 – Asphalt Paving Work Along Lake Shore Drive From 9th Avenue to 13th and 15th Avenue to 18th Avenue.

Administration sought Council approval of MDOT Contract #13-5010, for hot mix asphalt paving work along Lake Shore Drive from 9th Avenue to 13th, and along Lake Shore Drive from 15th Avenue to 18th Avenue; including base crushing and shaping, concrete sidewalk, and sidewalk ramp work. Additionally, Administration requested Council authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the necessary contracts.

City Engineer and Public Works Director William Farrell briefly reviewed the scope of the project and MDOT's funding match.

NB-3 Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve of MDOT Contract #13-5010, Control Section STUL 21041, Job Number 114262, Project STP 1321(003), Federal Item No. HH 8420, CFDA No. 20.205, for hot mix asphalt paving work along Lake Shore Drive from 9th Avenue to 13th, and along Lake Shore Drive from 15th Avenue to 18th Avenue; including base crushing and shaping, concrete sidewalk, and sidewalk ramp work, and furthermore authorized the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the necessary contracts.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, Baribeau, Baker, Nelson, Evans

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance No. 1131 – An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 1028, the City Zoning Ordinance.

Council was requested to consider this the first reading of Ordinance 1131, an amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance which would allow transitional housing uses which contain self-sufficiency training and human services offices as a principal use by right in a Residence "C" Multiple Family Zoning District and to schedule the second reading and public hearing for March 7, 2013.

NB-4 Nelson moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to set the date of March 7, 2013, for second reading, public hearing and adoption of Ordinance 1131.

Approval – Letter of Support – HUBZone Program.

Administration sought Council approval of a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship regarding the withdrawal of a HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zones) designation for Delta County.

Amy Berglund from U.S. Senator Carl Levin's Office, Don Makowski Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) at the Job Force in Escanaba, and Vickie Schwab from the Delta County Economic Development Alliance, updated those in attendance on the recent HUBZone ineligibility designation change for Delta County. Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program helped small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. The program was operated under the auspices of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The program encouraged economic development in historically underutilized business zones - "HUBZones" - through the establishment of preferences. SBA's HUBZone program was in line with the efforts of both the Administration and Congress to promote economic development and employment growth in distressed areas by providing access to more federal contracting opportunities.

The change in HUBZone eligibility was based on the 2010 census information. Businesses in Delta County, and many of the Counties in Western Michigan, were no longer eligible for HUBZone credits needed to compete on bidding Government Projects. The loss of the HUBZone designation will have a great impact on the business economy in Delta County and Western Michigan if they were unable to bid on Government Projects.

They encouraged Council, and the Townships and Cities of Delta County, to sign the letter on behalf of the municipality to encourage changing the HUBZone eligibility for Delta County and Western Michigan so small businesses could again compete on federal procurement opportunities.

NB-5 Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve a letter be sent to the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship regarding the withdrawal of a HUBZone designation for Delta County encouraging continuation

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of this program and stress the importance it provided to business sustainability, economic growth, and job creation in our rural community.

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

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Beauchamp, Baker, Evans

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Manager O'Toole updated the City Council and public on the status of the Power Plant sale, and updated on the cause of the power outage on Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

Council Members commented on the Escanaba Green Energy's Business Plan, the right of Escanaba Green Energy to protect proprietary information included in the Business Plan. Council Members asked the negotiation team to again review the proposed SSR agreement so delays would not occur when the sale did take place.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Evans, with Council consensus, made the following appointments:

- Elizabeth Keller to the Library Board of Trustees, term ending June 2015;
- Joe Kaplan to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term ending April 2015;
- Christian Williams to the City Planning Commission, term ending June 2016.

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

- Complimented the public and City Administration on their work of the updated trailer and homelessness ordinance proposed updates;
- Council Members asked public to keep former DDA employee Tom Daley in their thoughts and prayers.

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