

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, March 7, 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.

Pastor Al Schubert of Our Savior Lutheran Church gave the invocation and led Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Beauchamp moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2013, as submitted.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT**

City resident Bobbie Stacey suggested property owners around the new proposed park be assessed for sidewalks.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Second Reading - Ordinance No. 1131 – An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 1028, the City Zoning Ordinance.**

Ordinance No. 1131, is 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.

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

comment.

Manager O'Toole reviewed the 20 member subcommittee which met to help bring the ordinance to Council. The Committee Members were thanked for their work.

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

**PH-1** “By Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**Resolved,** That Ordinance No. 1131, the City Zoning Ordinance Amendment, given its public hearing at this meeting, be and is hereby adopted and that it be published in accordance with the requirements of the City Charter.”

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

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Baker, Beauchamp, Evans

Nays: None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

Herewith Ordinance No. 1131 adopted by title:

**“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 1028,  
CITY ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 702.1 TO ADD  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING TO PRINCIPAL USES”**

Full Text in Ordinance Record “K”.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **First Reading – Ordinance No. 1132 – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16, Article 3, Trailers, of the Code of Ordinances.**

Council was requested to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 1132, an ordinance to amend Chapter 16, Article 3, Trailers, of the Code of Ordinances and to schedule the second reading and public hearing for March 21, 2013.

**NB-1** Beauchamp moved, Baker seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 1132, an ordinance to amend Chapter 16, Article 3, Trailers, of the Code of Ordinances and to schedule the second reading and public hearing for March 21, 2013.

### **Approval – Accepting an Offer of Donation – Funding for Public Park – John and Patt Besse.**

Administration sought Council acceptance of a financial gift in the amount of

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\$280,000 from John and Patt Besse, which would be used to construct a public park, playground and disc golf course at the City-owned property on the northeast corner of 8th Avenue South and South 30th Street, and name the facility the “John D. Besse Public Park”.

Manager O’Toole provided a brief presentation on the history of the property and the proposed use for the park.

Former Recreation Director Anthony Schomin talked about the past 20 year property history of the park. Mr. Schomin encouraged acceptance of the Besse Family donation and development of the John D. Besse Public Park.

Recreation Director Tom Penegor reviewed the current history of the park, which would be all handicapped accessible, and it’s pavilion and disc golf course.

During discussion with Council, it was advised the City ordinance regarding smoking would need to be amended to include John D. Besse Public Park as a non-smoking area in the City, and possible revenue source from the rental of the pavilion.

**NB-2a** Baribeau moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to graciously accept a financial gift in the amount of \$280,000 from John and Patt Besse, which would be used to construct a public park, playground and disc golf course at the City-owned property on the northeast corner of 8th Avenue South and South 30th Street.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NB-2b** Nelson moved, Baribeau seconded, to name the new park facility the “John D. Besse Public Park”.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

It was the consensus of Council to direct City Administration to revise the City Ordinance so that the John D. Besse Public Park facility would be smoke free.

**Approval – TelNet PRI Contract - Renewal.**

Administration sought Council approval of a three (3) year contract renewal with TelNet PRI, which provided an economical alternative for City telephone lines located in the City Hall/Library complex at the same pricing as found in the current contract. This purchase was included in the current operating budget.

**NB-3** Beauchamp moved, Nelson seconded, to approve of a three (3) year contract renewal with TelNet PRI, which provided an economical alternative for City telephone lines located in the City Hall/Library complex at the same pricing as found in the current contract.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval – Resolution - Transportation Funding.**

Council was requested to pass a resolution directed to Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature which requested action be taken to make the necessary investments in Michigan's transportation network which in turn would save taxpayer dollars, save lives and improve the State economy.

**NB-4** "By Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE IMMEDIATE NEED TO FUND THE REPAIR OF MICHIGAN'S ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TO HELP MAKE MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES VIBRANT IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**WHEREAS,** let it be known that Michigan is losing \$3 million per day and more than \$1 billion per year due to maintenance costs and increased wear and tear on our roads and bridges; and

**WHEREAS,** Michigan's roads are consistently ranked among the nation's worst; and

**WHEREAS,** one-third of all fatal and serious traffic crashes in Michigan can be linked, in part, to poor road conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** developing effective public transit options in Michigan is a necessary tool for attracting and retaining residents, workers, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** research shows that people across the nation are choosing communities that offer various modes of transportation, easy access to the places they

live, work and play, and allow them to travel without having to rely on a car; and

**WHEREAS**, in particular, systems like streetcars and light rail have been credited with sparking new commercial and residential development; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's gas tax—the user fee that is the primary source of transportation funding—has not increased since 1997. At the same time, the gas tax revenue collected today, adjusted for inflation is equal to that which was collected in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, we risk a future fiscal crisis if we do not increase our investment in transportation. Currently 32 percent of Michigan's roads are ranked as being in poor condition. By 2018 this number is expected to jump to more than 65 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, if properly funded the percentage of roadways in poor condition would greatly improve; and

**WHEREAS**, bringing a road from poor to good pavement condition costs six times more than it does to bring a road from fair to good condition; and

**WHEREAS**, investing \$10 billion over the next ten years to fix Michigan's roads and bridges would create 12,000 jobs and prevent 100 crash-related deaths per year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Escanaba hereby urges Gov. Snyder and Michigan legislators to make the necessary investments to Michigan's transportation network to save taxpayer dollars, save lives and improve our economy.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Nelson, Baribeau, Baker, Beauchamp, Evans

Nays: None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**Approval – Resolution – Wells Sport Complex.**

Council was requested to adopt a Resolution of Support for a \$45,000 grant application to obtain funding for replacement of ice-making equipment at the Wells Sports Complex. The Complex offers a variety of recreational opportunities to local residents, and the upgrades will help ensure that those opportunities continue into the future.

**NB-5** “By Council Member Baribeau, seconded by Council Member Beauchamp;

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

**ENDORING A WELLS TOWNSHIP, WELLS SPORTS COMPLEX GRANT  
APPLICATION FOR A MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
RECREATIONAL PASSPORT GRANT FOR ICE-MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE  
WELLS SPORTS COMPLEX**

**WHEREAS**, The Wells Township Wells Sports Complex is located immediately adjacent to the Escanaba City limits, and the Complex houses the only indoor ice rink accessible to City residents, thereby allowing Escanaba's Citizens to participate in open skating, figure skating, hockey, curling and related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Escanaba City Council considers the aforementioned recreational opportunities to be vital to attractiveness and livability of the local community and therefore desires to ensure the future availability of such activities; and

**WHEREAS**, The future viability of the Complex is dependent on funding to replace antiquated ice-making equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, Replacement of Complex's antiquated ice-making equipment is expected to generate annual energy savings of approximately \$40,000; and

**WHEREAS**, The Complex has expressed its intent to apply for a \$45,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreational Passport Grant for the purpose of funding replacement of its ice-making Condenser/Cooling Tower; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Escanaba City Council does hereby endorse and support the award of a \$45,000 Recreational Passport Grant to the Wells Township Wells Sports Complex.

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

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

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

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

City Manager O'Toole updated the City Council and public on the status of the Power Plant sale. He advised the SSR agreement was approved by MISO. An update from EGE was received regarding final terms and conditions to provide the initial 10% deposit. Administration was requested to provide an update on the Electrical Fund at the Joint meeting of Council and Electrical Advisory Committee scheduled for March 13, 2013.

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

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

- Joe Klem to the Board of Appeals, term ending June 2014;
- Glenn VandeWater to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term ending April 2015;
- Matt Sviland to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term beginning April 1, 2013 and ending April 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**

Bobbie Stacey commented on the new park and how blessed we are living in a community where generous benefactors support the community.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- City Residents were reminded this weekend was Daylight Savings Time. Residents were reminded to reset their clocks and replace their smoke alarm batteries;
- The High School Escanaba Hockey team was congratulated for a remarkable hockey season;
- Council Members again thanked the Besse Family for generous donation.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC  
City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leo J. Evans, Mayor