

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Work Session Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21, 2014**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted January 13, 2014, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 8:02 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Marc D. Tall, Council Members, Patricia A. Baribeau, Ronald J. Beauchamp, and Leo J. Evans.

Absent: Council Member Ralph B. Blasier

Also Present: City Manager James V. O'Toole, City Clerk Richards, City Department Heads, and media.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Beauchamp moved, Evans seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council Agenda as submitted.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion – 2014-15 Operating Budget Preparation.**

Administration led a discussion about the upcoming 2014-15 operating budget and sought Council input on items the Council as a whole would like to see considered for inclusion in the budget. Additionally, the various departments updated the Council on budgetary opportunities and challenges for the upcoming year. The following items were discussed:

- Overview of the Budget time frame, Departmental submissions, Public Hearings, scheduled Budget Work Sessions, and Capital Improvement Plan;
- State Shared Revenue possible increase, but will assume no increase;
- Rehabilitation plan for Ludington Street from Stephenson to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street;
- EVIP Category II would be submitted and would bring in approximately \$110,000 of State Revenue;
- All Labor contracts were up for review;
- Discussed the Public Safety and MERS City Pension systems;
- Need to have discussions on the policy to allow members of the public to use Credit Cards to pay their utility bills;
- Each Department Head briefly reviewed their base budgets and project proposals they would be requesting for the 2014/15 Fiscal Year;

City Council Minutes  
January 21, 2014 – cont.

- Department Heads find it difficult to purchase supplies needed to operate their department's day to day activities. Need to discuss and review an increase of the \$6,000 City Purchasing Policy;
- Need to develop a program to educate the public regarding recycling. Too much trash was being mixed in with the recyclables;
- Received an update on the status of National Historic Registry of Historic Places downtown designation;
- Update on the Health Insurance and Pension costs which effect the entire City Budget;
- City Zoning Ordinance and City Comprehensive Plan need to be budgeted and updated;
- Council Members discussed DDA Façade Program, Blighted homes, Continue membership with the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and Council attendance to the Legislative and Annual MML Meeting.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC  
City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marc D. Tall, Mayor