

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 7:00 p.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

Evans moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to excuse Council Member Blasier who was out of the community.

Also Present: City Manager James V. O'Toole, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Reverend Chris Johnson of the Christ the King Lutheran Church, gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Evans moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2014, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Baribeau moved, Evans 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 – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval - Fireworks Display - Independence Day Celebration – Department of Recreation.

On February 10, 2014, Independence Day firework proposals were sent out to five (5) vendors with only one (1) vendor responding for the July 4, 2014, community event. Administration recommended the fireworks display contract be awarded to Wolverine Fireworks of Kawkawlin, Michigan, in the amount of \$10,000. It was further requested Council authorize the contract amount be increased equal to community donations received for the fireworks display.

NB-1 Evans moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve the July 4, 2014, fireworks display contract be awarded to Wolverine Fireworks of Kawkawlin, Michigan, in the amount of \$10,000, and furthermore, that the contract amount be increased equal to community donations.

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

Ayes: Evans, Beauchamp, Baribeau, Tall
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval - Sanitation Services - City Parks, Recreational Areas and Special Events – Department of Recreation.

On February 10, 2014, requests for sanitation services for city parks, recreational areas and special events were sent out to two (2) vendors with only one (1) vendor responding. Administration recommended the Park and Recreation Sanitation contract be awarded to Stenberg Brothers, Bark River, Michigan, for the period through March 31, 2015, for the prices stated in their proposal.

NB-2 Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve the Park and Recreation Sanitation contract be awarded to Stenberg Brothers, Bark River, Michigan, for the period through March 31, 2015, for the prices stated in their proposal.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, Baribeau, Evans, Tall
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval - Concession Services in Ludington Park – Department of Recreation.

On February 10, 2014, the City of Escanaba sent out seven (7) invitations to concessionaires to provide food and drink concession in Ludington Park for the 2014 Summer Season. As of February 25, 2014, only one (1) vendor responded. After review of the single proposal, Administration recommended Council award the Ludington Park Food/Drink Concession for Territory #2, to Sticky Fingers of Gladstone, Michigan, provided a certificate of liability insurance was filed with the City of Escanaba.

NB-3 Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to award the 2014 Ludington Park Food/Drink Concession for Territory #2, to Sticky Fingers of Gladstone, Michigan, provided a certificate of liability insurance was filed with the City of Escanaba.

Discussion - Extreme Cold Weather Impact – City Manager's Office.

City Administration reviewed the challenges associated this winter which had resulted in excessive frozen water services, water mains, sewers and storm system freezes. The following items were discussed:

- As of March 6, 2014, 435 water freeze ups, two water main breaks, two sewer line freeze ups, and one storm line freeze up. This in turn has impacted jurisdictional resources in an amount well over \$123,000;
- City Engineer/Public Works Superintendent Bill Farrell stated city crews have been very busy plowing and removing snow and that potholes were going to be a problem this year;
- Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi stated his crews have been working seven days a week on the water and sewer line freeze ups. Twice the amount of water has been used due to many scared customers letting their water run;
- Signs of water freeze ups are rusty water, banging pipes, and water coming out of the faucet at 35 degrees or less;
- Delta County Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Berbohm stated in order to declare a "State of Emergency," a total of \$13.7 million worth of detailed damages have to be documented statewide. The County will need to show we have exhausted all of our resources before receiving help from FEMA;
- Besides the freeze ups and broken water/sewer lines which were being addressed daily, other frost-related issues for the region will be road damage, broken gas lines, flooding, and bridge problems.

After discussion, the following resolution was presented:

NB-4 By Council Member Beauchamp, seconded by Council Member Evans:

**Escanaba City Council
Delta County, State of Michigan**

Resolution

"Extreme Cold Weather Impact"

TO: Mr. Robert Berbohm, Delta County Emergency Manager Coordinator, Delta County Commission, Senator Tom Casperson, Representative Ed McBroom and Governor Rick Snyder.

WHEREAS, ~~The Escanaba City Council hereby requests that the Delta County Commission declare a "State of Emergency" as a result of the extreme cold weather with sustained sub-zero temperatures which has caused widespread damage in the City of Escanaba with frost levels exceeding 70 inches. As a result of these sub-zero temperatures, the City of Escanaba has had two (2) water main breaks, over four hundred and thirty-five (435) residential and business water service freeze ups, two (2) sewer line freeze ups and one (1) storm line freeze up. This in turn has impacted jurisdictional resources in an amount well over \$ 123,000 as of March 6, 2014, and continues to be a major operational hardship for City personnel and a major financial~~

stress for the City of Escanaba operations, residents and businesses.

WHEREAS, This freeze is far worse than the freeze our area experienced in 1994 and the numbers of “let runs” are growing on a daily basis which is causing financial hardships for not only the City but for the residents and businesses of Escanaba.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The City of Escanaba is requesting the Delta County Commission declare a “State of Emergency” with the State Emergency Management Division so that they can petition the Governor’s Office for a declaration of emergency and make available to the City any resources available which will alleviate the hardships currently being experienced.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, Evans, Baribeau, Tall
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Discussion – Sale of the Power Plant/Referendum.

Manager O’Toole updated the Council and public on the latest developments related to the sale of the Escanaba generating facility. (See Attachment – A)

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

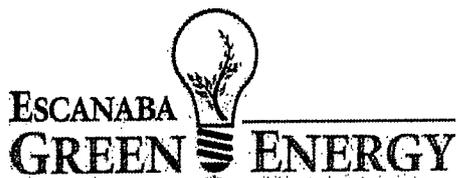
- First Robotics will be hosted in Escanaba on March 14-15, 2014;
- Encouraged residents to be aware of the snow and ice on their roofs;
- City Residents were reminded this weekend was Daylight Savings Time. Residents were reminded to reset their clocks and replace their smoke alarm and Carbon-Monoxide batteries;

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor



March 6, 2014

Dear Jim:

Here is EGE's latest update.

As you know representatives of Corban/Realty Financial Group went to Spain over the weekend to meet with both the Spanish law firm and the funding banks. These meetings were completed successfully as any last closing conditions and obstacles to having funds sent to the US were checked off. The moving of the funds should take place this week or Monday.

As you also know EGE has received all documents related to the closing and they are now being reviewed by EGE and its counsel. The documents are in large part acceptable so finishing this piece of the closing appears to be able to be accomplished very quickly.

Instructions for Delta Title and the title insurance policy have been outlined. Final arrangements for the lender's compliance engineer - firm responsible for approving work being done on the project and draws - are being completed. EGE has selected two possible compliance firms and Corban RFG will select one. This scope and process have already been established.

Corban and the law firm have suggested that a call is not necessary since EGE has received as letter confirming the funds and will receive a closing date when the funds are in a US account. EGE is able to share the letter with you but it is not a document that can be put on the public record for confidentiality reasons.

RFG anticipates that it will be ready to close in the next two weeks.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me.

Regards.

(original signed)

Charles Detiege