

**City of Escanaba
Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2014**

Pursuant to a meeting notice posted March 25, 2014, the Council of the City of Escanaba reconvened in special session in Room 101 of City Hall at 8:00 a.m., to begin the review and discussion of the proposed 2014/15 City Budget.

Present: Mayor Marc D. Tall, Council Members Patricia A. Baribeau, Ronald J. Beauchamp, and Ralph B. Blasier (Arrived at 9:30 a.m.).

Absent: Vacancy

Also Present: City Manager James V. O'Toole, City Controller Dewar, and various City Department Heads.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The following Department Heads presented their budgets:

Library Director, Carolyn Stacey – 8:00 a.m.

Mrs. Stacey reviewed the 2014/15 proposed Library Budget with Council. The following was reviewed:

- Overview of the Department, Library Strategic Planning process, daily programs, services, and technology's, and strategies the Library would provide the community and Delta County;
- Discussed Books and Subscriptions line item which took a 50% cut. With a \$6,000 savings in General Fund Public Safety Pension, Administration suggested that the \$6,000 be transferred to the Library Books and Subscriptions to increase line item to \$26,000;
- Discussed application for 2% Hannahville Funds for digital materials;
- City needs Library funding help from the County, and further discussed Library funding reductions while there were increases in other Departmental activities such as Recreation;

Community Preservation – Blain DeGrave 8:35 a.m.

- Overview of Department and Daily Activities;
- Summarized Code Compliance inspection program;
- Historic District Commission duties;
- Discussed Enhanced Code Enforcement Area, apartments, rehabilitation;
- Building Inspections, which included rentals and nuisance complaints;
- Facade Improvement Program;
- Rental Rehabilitation Program.

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Administration reviewed the following other Fund Budgets:

- Escanaba Building Authority Fund;
- City Manager's Budget;
- Catherine Bonifas Trust Fund;
- Brownfield Redevelopment Fund;
- M.S.C. Revolving Loan Fund;
- Farmer's Home Grant Fund;
- Gas Retirement Fund;
- Reviewed various City Grants;
- Health/Dental Insurance Fund;
- Housing Rehabilitation Fund;
- Land Development Fund;
- Office Equipment Fund;
- Parking Maintenance Fund;
- Risk Retention Fund;
- Unemployment Compensation Fund;
- Worker's Compensation Fund.
- Sanitary Landfill Fund;
- U.D.A.G. Revolving Loan Fund;
- Capital Improvement Plan.

Human Resources Director/City Treasurer, Robert Valentine – 9:37 a.m.

Mr. Valentine reviewed the following 2014/15 proposed budget items with Council:

- Mr. Valentine, in accordance with Michigan Public Act 20, provided and reviewed with Council the annual Treasurer's Investment Summary, which included a review of annual investments, City portfolio, summary of gains and losses, and current listings of eligible depositories;

The following was also reviewed by Administration and Mr. Valentine:

- Human Resources and Treasurer's Department Budgets;
- Utility Billing Department.

City Assessor, Daina Norden - 11:00 a.m.

Assessor Norden reviewed her Department budget with Council. The following was discussed:

- Overview of Assessor's activities and duties;
- Upcoming legislation, Board of Review, and Big Box Store Tax Tribunal

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discussion, and possible need to hire additional Legal Counsel;

- Personal Property Exemption;
- Board of Review Budget.

City Clerk, Robert S. Richards – 10:30 p.m.

Clerk Richards reviewed the following 2014/15 proposed budgets. The following was discussed:

- Clerk Office Budget;
- Elections Budget.

Marina Fund - Larry Gravatt – 10:50 p.m.

Mr. Gravatt reviewed the Marina Budget with Council and discussed the following items:

- Reviewed services, programs and festivals scheduled at the Harbor Marina;
- Summarized State Grant funds that were used to dredge the Marina entrance and locations which allowed more vessels to enter the Harbor;
- Discussed Electrical upgrades and repairs needed for docks.

The following other budgets were reviewed by Administration with Council:

- Request for City Council;
- Request for City Manager;
- Controller's Office;
- Request for Auditors;
- Request for City Attorney;
- Request for City Hall and Grounds;
- Request for Community Promotional;
- Request for Special Celebrations-Flags;
- Request for Crossing Guards;
- Request for Planning/Zoning Commission;
- Request for Community Services;
- Request for Tourism Promotion.

General discussions:

Baribeau moved, Blasier seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, that with a \$6,000 savings in General Fund Public Safety Pension, Administration suggested that the \$6,000 be transferred to the Library Books and Subscriptions to increase line item to \$26,000.

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Directed Administration to present a report a possible City-wide cleanup program.

Council directed Administration to prepare a White Paper on the possibility of reducing the water rates for watering grass, and borrowing funds to reduce the Public Safety Unfunded Pension.

Salary increases were discussed. It was suggested to ensure City employee positions were not exceeding the salary norm compared to the private sector. Administration advised salaries were governed by union contracts, and salaries were compared to other municipalities, and with the Michigan Municipal League Salary Chart.

Discussed additional funding for Major and Local roads. Proposed budgets included \$100,000 each for Major and Local Streets.

Council Members discussed a proposed increase in Local Streets to \$400,000.

The time being 12:00 p.m. the Council recessed for lunch.

Council came back into open session at 12:47 p.m.

With Public Works Director Bill Farrell present, Council Members discussed additional Local Street funding and what would Public Works be able to complete next fiscal year.

After discussion, Blasier moved, Baribeau seconded, to increase Local Streets to a total of \$300,000, with the transfer coming from the Major Streets Budget.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

After review and discussion of proposed budgets, Blasier moved, Baribeau seconded, to accept the 2014/15 Budget as amended.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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Hearing no further public comment and the time being 12:56 p.m., the Council adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor