

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, June 5, 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 Michael R. Sattem

Absent: Ralph B. Blasier

Moved by Council Member Beauchamp, seconded by Council Member Sattem, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to excuse Council Member Blasier.

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

Reverend Scott White, of Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2014, and Special Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2014, May 19, 2014, and June 2, 2014, as submitted.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None

**RETIREMENT PROCLAMATION**

A Certificate of Appreciation and a Proclamation declaring June 5, 2014, was made for Stephen J. LaBonte, Jr. upon his retirement from the City of Escanaba. Council Members wished him the best in his retirement.

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Public Hearing – Second Reading and Adoption – Ordinance No. 1152 – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Section 18-212, of the City Of Escanaba Code Of Ordinances.**

Council conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 1152, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 18, Section 18-212 of the City of Escanaba Code of Ordinance as it relates to the sale, discharge, storage, possession, transportation and distribution of consumer fireworks within the City limits.

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

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

**PH-1** "By Council Member Sattem, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**Resolved,** That Ordinance No. 1152, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 18, Section 18-212 of the City of Escanaba Code of Ordinance as it relates to the sale, discharge, storage, possession, transportation and distribution of consumer fireworks within the City limits, given its second reading and public hearing at this meeting, be and it is hereby adopted, and that it be published in accordance with the requirements of State law and the City Charter."

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

Ayes: Sattem, Baribeau, Beauchamp, Tall

Nays: None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

Herewith Ordinance No. 1152, adopted by title:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18-212,  
OF THE CITY OF ESCANABA CODE OF ORDINANCES  
IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE SALE, DISCHARGE,  
STORAGE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION AND  
DISTRIBUTION OF FIREWORKS**

Full text in Ordinance Record "K."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval – Banking Service Contract.**

On May 9, 2014, invitations to submit proposals for banking services were sent out to area banks. A proposal opening was conducted on May 23, 2014, with five (5) proposals being received. After review of all proposals, administration recommended approval of the M-Bank (Escanaba) proposal which included a 1.5% fixed rate on deposits with minimal fees and charges.

Escanaba City Treasurer Robert Valentine provided a brief overview of the proposed City Banking Services contract with M-Bank of Escanaba.

**NB-1** Beauchamp moved, Sattem seconded, to approve a Banking Service Contract proposal from M-Bank (Escanaba) for City of Escanaba banking services which includes a 1.5% fixed rate on deposits with minimal fees.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, Sattem, Baribeau, Tall

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval – Tennis Court Resurfacing Project – City of Escanaba and Escanaba Area Schools.**

On April 30, 2014, invitations to submit bids for tennis court resurfacing were sent out to five (5) vendors. On May 20, 2014, a bid opening was conducted with five (5) bids received. After review of all bids, administration recommended the contract be awarded to Tennis Courts Unlimited of Watervliet, Michigan, (pending MDNR's approval) in the amount of \$48,286. Of the contract amount, \$31,486 will be allocated by the City to upgrade the City of Escanaba's courts. The remaining \$16,800 would be the responsibility of the Escanaba School system for upgrading their courts.

**NB-2** Baribeau moved, Sattem seconded, to approve a Tennis Court Resurfacing Bid contract to Tennis Courts Unlimited of Watervliet, Michigan, (pending MDNR's approval) in the amount of \$31,486 to upgrade the City of Escanaba's courts. The remaining \$16,800 would be the responsibility of the Escanaba School system for upgrading their courts.

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

Ayes: Baribeau, Sattem, Beauchamp, Tall

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval – New Brewer License - Bell's Brewery, Inc. - 3525 Airport Road.**

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) required local governmental approval of a new Brewer License for the newly constructed Upper Hand Brewery located at 3525 Airport Road. On May 21, 2014, the City of Escanaba Liquor Review Board recommended Council approval. Administration recommended approval.

**NB-3** Resolved by Council Member Sattem, seconded by Council Member Beauchamp, to recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission a new Brewer License for the newly constructed Upper Hand Brewery located at 3525 Airport Road.

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

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**Approval – Setting of Public Hearing - Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate – Bell’s Brewery, Inc. - 3525 Airport Road.**

Bell’s Brewery, Inc. (Upper Hand Brewery), 3525 Airport Road requested a tax abatement for real/and or personal property they own or control at their newly constructed brewing facility. Council was asked to set June 19, 2014, as a public hearing date on their application.

**NB-4** Baribeau moved, Sattem seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to set June 19, 2014, as a public hearing date on Bell’s Brewery, Inc. (Upper Hand Brewery), 3525 Airport Road, application for a tax abatement for real/and or personal property they own or control at their newly constructed brewing facility.

**Approval - Naming of Baseball Field - Veteran's Park - South 14th Street and 8th Avenue South.**

Administration sought Council approval to name the baseball field at Veteran's Park the "Kevin Tapani Field at Veteran's Park". Mr. Tapani was raised in Escanaba. He quarterbacked the Escanaba Eskymos to the 1981 MHSAA Class "A" State Football Championship and went on to play Major League Baseball pitching for the New York Mets, Minnesota Twins, Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs. In 1991 while pitching for the Minnesota Twins, the Twins won the World Series. On May 13, 2014, the Recreation Advisory Board met and recommended Council approval.

**NB-5** Baribeau moved, Sattem seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve to name the baseball field at Veteran's Park the "Kevin Tapani Field at Veteran's Park".

**Update – Sale of the Power Plant – City Manager’s Office.**

Manager O’Toole updated the Council and public on the latest developments related to the sale of the Escanaba generating facility. He stated Escanaba Green Energy (EGE) made final arrangements for closing. Proof of funds would be forwarded to EGE from an Escrow agency stating when the funds would be available to complete

the loan. Information would be forwarded to the City when information was received.

**Discussion – Resolution to Reinstate State Shared Revenue.**

Council discussed a resolution which requested the State Legislature and Governor to fully reinstate state revenue sharing to all cities, counties and townships in the State of Michigan before any “Grand Bargain” appropriations were approved and distributed to the City of Detroit. Senator Casperson’s representative Marty Fittante was in attendance and also provided details of the Detroit bailout and each discussed the following:

- Detroit bailout was finalized;
- Senator Casperson’s Office did receive various feedback regarding this issue from the Senator’s district;
- Senator Casperson voted No on the bill other than oversight portion;
- Would need to discuss with the Michigan Municipal League to see if there was support to reinstate the State Shared Revenues from the State of Michigan;
- Portions of the City’s proposed resolution was reviewed with Mr. Fittante and Mr. Fittante stated many of the same points were debated down in Lansing. He advised State needed a healthy Detroit for a healthy Michigan;
- Council Members questioned why the City of Detroit was handed \$195 million in State Funds to help with their city employee pension fund when other communities were suffering and had their State Revenue Funds withheld;
- The City of Escanaba should go on record stating disapproval with the Grand Bargain for Detroit. Other Upper Peninsula communities had experienced economic failure and didn’t receive help from the state to keep them going;
- The City of Escanaba had played by the rules, made sacrifices in personnel and made other budget cuts because of the reduced State Shared Revenue.

After further discussion, the following resolution was made:

**NB-7** “By Council Member Beauchamp, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**RESOLUTION**

**“WHEREAS**, the economy in Michigan has not recovered and is still in recession, especially in the Upper Peninsula; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan has withheld State revenue sharing funds from local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, local communities have to impose a heavier tax burden on its citizens and/or cut services; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature has appropriated \$195,000,000 for the City of Detroit as part of the “Grand Bargain.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Escanaba ask the State Legislature to fully reinstate State revenue sharing to all cities, counties and townships.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the resolution be transmitted to all state representatives and state senators representing the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, Speaker of the House James “Jase” Bolger and Governor Rick Snyder.

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

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

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.”**

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

Mayor Tall, with Council consensus made the following appointments:

- Steve Buckbee to the City Planning Commission, term ending June 2016;
- Maggie Murphy-Pomery to the Recreation Advisory Board, term ending June 2016;
- Nathan Gauss to the City Board of Appeals, 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**

Steve Parks, Delta County Prosecutor, briefly spoke about his efforts of getting the word “Yooper”, into the Merriam Webster dictionary. He stated Emily Brewster, of Merriam Webster Dictionary, would be at the Upper Peninsula State Fair as a guest of Senator Casperson, and at that time a small ceremony would be conducted. Mr. Parks wished to present Ms. Emily Brewster something of significance for all of her work.

After discussion, the following resolution was made:

By Council Member Beauchamp, seconded by Council Member Baribeau;

**RESOLUTION  
CITY OF ESCANABA**



**CERTIFICATE  
OF  
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

**WHEREAS,** Emily Brewster of Merriam-Webster in recognition for her services in adding the word "Yooper" to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, we present this Certificate of Honorary Membership.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That Emily Brewster of Merriam-Webster is hereby given Honorary Membership into the Yooper Fellowship and is therefore vested with all rights, benefits and privileges of the Yooper Fellowship, including, but not limited to, the right to refer to herself as an

**"HONORARY YOOPER."**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I Marc D. Tall, Mayor of the City of Escanaba, hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Escanaba to be affixed this \_\_\_ day of August, 2014.

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

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

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Rock the Dock this Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Dock.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

City Council Minutes  
June 5, 2014 – cont.

Respectfully submitted

Robert S. Richards, CMC  
City Clerk

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