

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
ELECTRICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Special Joint Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Pursuit to a meeting notice posted June 8, 2015, the meeting was called to order by the Mayor Marc D. Tall at 12:00 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, Ralph B. Blasier, and Michael R. Sattem.

Absent: None.

Present: Electrical Advisory Committee (EAC) Members: Glendon Brown and John Mellinger.

Absent: Electrical Advisory Committee (EAC) Members: Chairperson Tim Wilson, John Anthony, Larry Arkens, Ann Bissell, One vacancy and Power Plant Liaison.

Also Present: City Manager James V. O'Toole, Electric Superintendent Mike Furmanski, City Controller Melissa Becotte, State Representative John Kivela, State Representative Ed McBroom, members of the public and media.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – Michigan Energy Policy – Valerie Brader, Executive Director – Michigan Agency for Energy.

Valerie Brader, Executive Director of the newly created Michigan Agency for Energy in the State of Michigan briefed the Council, Electrical Advisory Committee and citizens of Escanaba on the current status of the Michigan energy policy via teleconference. The following was discussed:

- The Legislators and Governor Rick Snyder were looking at a study to determine if an electrical interconnecting system would benefit the Upper Peninsula and the upper Lower Peninsula;
- A generation plant was being constructed in the Lower Peninsula that could be connected to a new transmission line supplying power to the Upper Peninsula;
- The goal was to provide lower transmission costs for the long term while also being environmentally friendly;
- It was hoped decisions can be made at a state level rather than the federal government deciding what was best for Michigan;

- An energy solution coming from the state would also function in the best interest of rate payers rather than a proposal from Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO);
- There were no plans for construction of a new power plant to replace the aging Presque Isle coal-fueled facility in Marquette.

State Representative John Kivela favored a proposed transmission line connecting the two peninsulas and said the current legislation, if approved, would form a committee to study the interconnection system and look at a possible solution to an issue that impacts the entire Upper Peninsula.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

State Representative John Kivela spoke in high regards for Valerie Brader's understanding of the region's energy issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further public comment, or further reports from the Electrical Advisory Committee or Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Weissert
Deputy Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor