

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 20, 2015**

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, Ralph B. Blasier, and Michael R. Sattem.

Absent: None

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

City Clerk Robert S. Richards gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blasier moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2015, Special Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2015, and Special Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2015, as submitted.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval - Professional Services Agreement - Michigan Tax Tribunal Cases - Legal Services.**

Administration sought Council authorization to retain Mr. Jack VanCoevinger as legal counsel for the Michigan Tax Tribunal cases currently filed against the City of Escanaba by AutoZone, 405 South Lincoln Road, the Escanaba Country Club, 1800 11th Avenue South and O'Reilly Automotive, 521 North Lincoln Road in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

City Assessor Daina Norden provided an overview with Council and citizens regarding the Dark Store Cases. Mrs. Norden stated the City needed to be diligent, and to hire an Attorney to represent the City of Escanaba.

**NB-1** Beauchamp moved, Blasier seconded, to approve to retain Mr. Jack VanCoeuvering as legal counsel for the Michigan Tax Tribunal cases currently filed against the City of Escanaba by AutoZone, 405 South Lincoln Road, the Escanaba Country Club, 1800 11th Avenue South and O'Reilly Automotive, 521 North Lincoln Road in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval - Professional Services Agreement - Michigan Tax Tribunal Cases - Appraisal Services.**

Administration sought Council authorization to retain Mr. James T. Hartman for appraisal services for the Michigan Tax Tribunal cases currently filed against the City of Escanaba by AutoZone, 405 South Lincoln Road, the Escanaba Country Club, 1800 11th Avenue South and O'Reilly Automotive, 521 North Lincoln Road in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.

City Assessor Daina Norden provided an overview with Council and citizens on the Dark Store Cases. Mrs. Norden advised the Michigan Tax Tribunal would require necessary appraisal documentation and an outside appraiser. Mr. James T. Hartman was an appraiser who specialized in these types of properties.

**NB-2** Blasier moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve to retain Mr. James T. Hartman for appraisal services for the Michigan Tax Tribunal cases currently filed against the City of Escanaba by AutoZone, 405 South Lincoln Road, the Escanaba Country Club, 1800 11th Avenue South and O'Reilly Automotive, 521 North Lincoln Road in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**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** – None

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Robert S. Richards, CMC  
City Clerk

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