

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Work Session Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted December 15, 2015, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 8:02 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Marc D. Tall, Council Members, Patricia A. Baribeau (Arrived at 8:05 a.m.) Ralph B. Blasier, Ronald J. Beauchamp, and Michael R. Sattem.

Absent: None

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – 2016/2017 Operating Budget Preparation.

Administration led a discussion concerning the upcoming 2016-17 operating budget and sought Council input on items the Council as a whole would like to see considered for inclusion in the budget. Additionally, the various departments updated the Council on budgetary opportunities and challenges for the upcoming year. Administration discussed the following budgets with Council:

- Reviewed proposed budget schedules with departments and Council;
- City Controller Melissa Becotte proposed no significant changes other than an Auditor proposal;
- Assessor Daina Norden provided an update of the Assessor's budget, Dark Store issues and expenditure concern of continuing attorney fees, and veteran exemptions;
- City Clerk Richards updated Council on the proposed Clerk's Office budget, Election budget which included proposed capital expenditures for new State mandated voting machines, and proposed expenditures for network servers and anti-virus and GIS software. Council asked to see if the City Web Site could send text messages to the public when Council minutes and Agendas were available;
- City Treasure/Human Resources Director Robert Valentine provided an update on Human Resources, Utility Billing, departments. Mr. Valentine also commented on a proposal to allow the use of credit cards to pay monthly bills and property taxes, discussed proposed increases in the Public Safety and MERS pension payments. Council requested Mr. Valentine submit a cost analysis regarding the use of credit cards;
- City Recreation Director Kimberly Peterson reviewed Recreation budgets which included tennis courts repaving, Civic Center damaged floor replacement, and a proposal to have only one ice rink behind the Civic Center;

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- Public Safety Director Ken Vanderlinden reviewed the Public Safety proposed budgets which included the purchase of a new pumper truck, and increase in the Public Safety pension payments;
- Community Preservation, seeking blight removal funds;
- City Engineer/Public Works Department Bill Farrell reviewed proposed special assessments for streets which included North 26th Street for the new Meijers Store, proposed new furnace/air conditioner for the Engineering Department, proposed SAW Grant expenditures, and reviewed various budgets which included City Parks, Ludington Street project, Major Street projects, Garbage and recycling;
- Downtown Development Authority Director Edward Legault discussed the Escanaba Market Place project with an addition of a handicap park, current and future Downtown Facade Projects;
- Electric Superintendent Mike Furmanski reviewed proposed Electric Budget items which included the new substation project, and Administration update on the closing on the sale of the City Power Plant, and Insurance substation claim;
- Water/WasteWater Superintendent Jeff Lampi provided updates of State mandated Water Capital Improvement Plan, City water loss from broken pipes from winter freezing and replacement of City water meters, disinfection water products, proposal for a blended rate for water rates, SAW Grant expenditures for the Wastewater Plant and slip lining projects;
- City Library Director Carolyn Stacey and Manager O'Toole updated proposed Library budget which included proposed legislation for vanity vehicle plates that would provide small reimbursements to State Libraries, and Library Director Stacey advised the proposed 2016/17 Library Budget would request that the City maintain support at its current level and that the Library was making progress in building capacity through our Friends of the Library;
- Public Works Superintendent Bill Farrell provided an update on the City Equipment Fund proposal for new Public Safety Pumper, new leaf vacuum equipment, various city vehicles, and new salt brine street treatment program which included purchase of brine storage tanks;
- Administration reviewed other various funds which included Central Dispatch, EDA Revolving Loan Fund, Land Development Fund, UDAG and Marina budget proposals.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor