

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, July 7, 2016**

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, 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.

Pastor Cheryl Duke of First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sattem moved, Blasier seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2016, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council Member Blasier advised he was a member of the Yacht Club.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

William Bonifas Fine Arts Center representative Business Director Sue Roll spoke in support of their annual lease with the City and thanked Council for all their past decades of support.

Jon Anthony, member of the Yacht Club, thanked Council for the past support to promote boating in the community. He spoke of the lease agreement, and asked that the item be tabled so their Yacht Club members could meet and review the agreement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval – Street Paving Contract – Department of Public Works.

On June 9, 2016, four (4) invitations to submit bids for street paving were sent out to area contractors. Additionally, an advertisement for bids was put in the Daily Press. A bid opening was conducted on June 21, 2016, with one (1) bid received. After review and consideration by the Administration, the bid from Payne and Dolan, of Gladstone, Michigan, was recommended for approval at their stated unit prices. This appropriation was included in the current fiscal year budget.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bill Farrell reviewed the bidding process and streets scheduled to be repaired.

NB-1 Blasier moved, Sattem seconded, to approve a street paving bid from Payne and Dolan, of Gladstone, Michigan, at their stated unit prices.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Annual Service Agreement - William Bonifas Fine Arts Center.

The William Bonifas Fine Arts Center sought Council approval of their 2016-17 service agreement in the amount of \$5,000. Under the terms of the agreement, the center will provide a minimum of 8 exhibitions in the Alice Powers Exhibition Hall, 5 plays, 25 classes in the creative and visual arts, and workshops, which will be available to the citizens of Escanaba. Administration recommended approval of the service agreement. This appropriation was included in the current fiscal year budget.

NB-2 Sattem moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center 2016-17 Service Agreement in the amount of \$5,000.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Escanaba Yacht Club Lease Renewal - Ludington Park.

The Escanaba Yacht Club sought Council approval of a 10 year lease for City property located in Ludington Park for the club's building. Under the terms of the lease, the Escanaba Yacht Club would provide opportunities for members of the public to have access to the building and club activities, conduct a 4th of July brunch which shall be open to the public, host the Inland Seas, an educational vessel, sponsor a "Walk the Dock" event whereby the public will be invited to tour individual boats, provide an "Open

House” for the Fun Run, sponsor sailing races wherein any member of the public can crew on a boat , co-sponsor “Marina Fest” and rent its facilities to the general public for high school graduation parties and wedding receptions. Administration recommended approval of the lease.

NB-3 After discussion, and comments from Mr. Anthony, Baribeau moved, Blasier seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to table Escanaba Yacht Club Lease Renewal - Ludington Park to the next regular Council meeting of July 21, 2016, but no later than the Council Meeting of August 4, 2016.

Setting of Public Hearing - Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (OPRA) No. 25 – 301 North Lincoln Road and 2601 3rd. Avenue North.

The Obsolete Properties Rehabilitation Act (PA 146 of 2000) allows partial exemption of property taxes for a specified period for certain types of property improvements within a specified area. The intent of the legislation is to encourage rehabilitation of underutilized or decaying commercial or commercial/residential properties in certain designated communities such as Escanaba. In accordance with program requirements, the prospective buyer of 301 North Lincoln Road and 2601 3rd Avenue North, commonly known as Delta Plaza, has submitted a request that the City establish an OPRA District, which if approved would allow for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation exemption in the future. Administration requested Council to schedule a public hearing for July 21, 2016, for the consideration of establishing Obsolete Rehabilitation District No. 25, in accordance with the requirements of PA 146 of 2000.

NB-4 Blasier moved, Sattem seconded, to schedule a public hearing for July 21, 2016, for the consideration of establishing Obsolete Rehabilitation District No. 25, in accordance with the requirements of PA 146 of 2000.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – Escanaba Power Plant Insurance Claim – Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

Administration sought Council approval to accept the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority’s offer of settlement for the Escanaba Power Plant insurance claim in the amount of \$2,253,270.34, less the deductible of \$250,000, for the total payment of \$2,003,270.34.

Manager O’Toole reviewed the City expenditures expended during the event, and negotiations related to the insurance settlement.

NB-5 Beauchamp moved, Baribeau seconded, to approve to accept the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's offer of settlement for the Escanaba Power Plant insurance claim in the amount of \$2,253,270.34, less the deductible of \$250,000, for the total payment of \$2,003,270.34.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – West Ludington Street Fiberglass Pole Replacement – Electric Department.

Administration sought Council approval to purchase two (2) black fiberglass street light poles from the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) in the amount of \$7,230. The poles were needed to replace damaged poles on the west end of Ludington Street, between Stephenson Avenue and Lincoln Road.

NB-6 Beauchamp moved, Blasier seconded, to approve to purchase two (2) black fiberglass street light poles from the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) in the amount of \$7,230.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mayor Tall, with Council consensus, appointed Jean-Paul Rudell to the Traffic Safety Committee term ending June 1, 2019.

BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Members reviewed City Board and Commission meetings each attended since the last City Council Meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy O'Connell and Kim Caracus commented on the City Fireworks Ordinance and complained on the number of days residents were allowed to discharge their

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fireworks. They felt the number of days in the current ordinance that residents were allowed to discharge their fireworks was too long. They asked Council to amend the ordinance to limit the number of days allowed to discharge fireworks to the State minimum.

Council asked Administration to provide a report from Public Safety and a recommendation for possible changes.

Manager O'Toole stated this fall a Council Work Session would be scheduled to discuss the issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The new Library Website would be launching Friday, July 8th.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor