



Electric Advisory Committee
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
March 18, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Ronald Beauchamp-Chairman
John Mellinger-Vice Chairman
Larry Arkens, Committee Member
W.A. "Pete" Baker, Committee Member
Ann Bissell, Committee Member

Glendon Brown, Committee Member
Tim Wilson, Committee Member
Michael Furmanski-Electric Superintendent
Gilbert X. Cheves- City Council Liaison

City Hall-410 Ludington Street-Room C101 - Escanaba, MI 49829

Electric Advisory Committee

SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 6:00pm

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

NEW BUSINESS

1. Power Plant Referendum Discussion - May 5, 2009.

The Electrical Advisory Committee will discuss the upcoming referendum going before the City of Escanaba electorates on May 5, 2009.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMITTEE MEMBERS/ADMINISTRATION
ADJOURNMENT

The City of Escanaba will provide all necessary, reasonable aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the City of Escanaba. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Escanaba by writing or calling at (906) 786-9402.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Beauchamp
Chairperson



SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE

ELECTRICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a special meeting of the **Electrical Advisory Committee** has been scheduled for March 18, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall Room 101, 410 Ludington Street. The purpose of said meeting is to discuss the Power Plant Proposal, and/or to act on any other items brought up by the Committee.

SPECIAL MEETING DATE: March 18, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

This notice is given in accordance with Act 267 of the 1976 Public Acts of State of Michigan and Chapter II, Section 5, of the Escanaba City Charter. Public Notice will be given regarding any changes of the above meeting. The Electric Advisory Committee will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) days notice to the Electrical Advisory Committee. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Electrical Advisory Committee or the City of Escanaba by writing or calling:

Mike Furmanski
Electric Superintendent
1711 Sheridan Road
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-0061

Robert S. Richards
City Clerk
P. O. Box 948
410 Ludington Street
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-1194

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Officials want to get word out about plant vote

By Jenny Lancour - jlancour@dailypress.net

POSTED: March 17, 2009

ESCANABA - Escanaba City Council and Electric Advisory Committee members exchanged concerns about the May 5 power plant election during a joint meeting Monday.

Though the issue was not on the meeting's agenda, several council and committee members said they are concerned the public may not be fully informed about the ballot question. The referendum asks voters whether or not council should be given authority to sell, lease or dispose of the power plant.

The city has been exploring various ways to provide customers with reliable and cost-efficient power. Options remaining on the table include buying power wholesale and selling the plant. Council is requesting the voters' authority on the plant so the decision-making process can continue.

At its regular meeting last week, the EAC discussed forming a public outreach program to educate the public on the ballot issue. A billboard informing voters on the May 5 election was suggested, said EAC Chairman Ron Beauchamp at Monday's meeting.

Council members agreed voters need to be better educated about the ballot issue.

"We need to get out in the forefront, get out there to the public," said council member Gilbert Cheves, adding the voters' decision is important because it will help determine the city's future energy supply.

"We need to do this in a coordinated effort to inform voters on the issue," he said. Cheves emphasized the reason for the vote is to allow the city the ability to evaluate all its energy options.

Council member Brady Nelson said he would like to see members of the group take a stand on the power plant issue so the public knows their opinion.

"This issue has been going on for years... Our options are limited," Nelson said. "We need to say how we feel about it."

Council member Pat Baribeau said council and EAC members have not discussed their stand on the issue and should do so through proper channels.

She added a yes vote does not necessarily mean the power plant will be sold but only gives council authority to sell, lease or dispose of the facility.

Council member Tom Warstler said council needs to let the public know how it feels on the issue between now and the election.

Mayor Leo Evans said voters need to understand they are not voting to close the power plant.

EAC member Pete Baker said, "We've been educating the public on this issue for a long time... What the people are looking for...is city council's opinion."

EAC member Tim Evans said educating themselves on the issue and taking a stand will create interest from the public.

The EAC decided to schedule a special meeting to discuss its stand on the ballot issue.

meeting will take place sometime this week before council meets Thursday.

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