

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, April 5, 2018**

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, Ronald J. Beauchamp, Ralph B. Blasier, Michael R. Sattem, and Peggy O'Connell Schumann.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Controller Melissa Becotte, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

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

Sattem moved, Blasier seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting minutes from March 15, 2018, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Schumann moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

PROCLAMATIONS OF NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY

Mayor Tall proclaimed April 3, 2018, as National Service Recognition Day.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval – Pension Reform Waiver – Controller.

Administration sought Council approval of an application for waiver titled "Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act Application for Waiver and Plan: Defined Pension Retirement Systems". Approval from Council for this waiver was required prior to submission.

City Controller Melissa, briefly reviewed the waiver, stating what the City was doing to be compliant.

NB-1 Schumann moved, Blasier seconded, to approve of an application for waiver titled “Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act Application for Waiver and Plan: Defined Pension Retirement Systems”.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Schumann, Blasier, Sattem, Beauchamp, Tall

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval – MDOT Traffic Signal Work - Agreement 18-5078 – Electric.

Administration sought Council approval of MDOT Agreement 18-5078 for a Traffic Signal Modernization project taking place at MDOT signalized intersections in Escanaba in 2018. MDOT has requested the City of Escanaba Electric Department perform work at or near two of those intersections; cost estimates to perform the work has been provided per their request and was included in this agreement. Electric Superintendent Mike Furmanski reviewed the scope of work, and Clerk Richards advised the resolution needed to state the City Officials authorized to sign the necessary contracts.

NB-2 By Council Member Blasier, seconded by Council Member Sattem;

Resolved, The City of Escanaba does hereby approve MDOT Contract #18-5078, Control Section STG 21021, Job Number 125834A, Federal Project 1800(161), for Traffic Signal Modernization project taking place at MDOT signalized intersections in Escanaba in 2018, and;

Be it Further Resolved, the Escanaba City Council approves its Mayor Marc D. Tall, and City Clerk Robert S. Richards to sign the necessary contracts.

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

Ayes: Blasier, Sattem, Schumann, Beauchamp, Tall

Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Discussion – Seagull Control – Public Safety.

A discussion took place concerning Seagull control.

Director LaMarche explained and reviewed the history, approval from the DNR for a permit to destroy the seagull nests. LaMarche stated to keep permit, City must perform constant harassment, and consistent nest removal.

Charles Lindquist, local Audubon Club member, provided brief history of the seagull problem around the local churches. Mr. Lindquist stated with high water in Lake Michigan, the seagulls lose their nesting islands and come inland.

Ken LaCosse, stated the cannon going off every seven minutes was too loud at night. The cannon was turned to face away from town help, but was still loud.

LaMarche stated the permit was free because the City applied for it, and a total of 80 man hours over the last two years was spent for removal of nests. With the pointing of the cannon facing down, the number of complaints have dropped. Director LaMarche stated it was critical to remove the nests. Local businesses were explained how to join in with the removal.

Charles Lindquist stated shooting birds could have a bad impact to the City. Removing the nest would be the better idea.

Discussion – City Clerk / I.T. Administrator Replacement Process.

The City Council discussed the City Clerk / I.T. Administrator replacement process and transition plan for the retiring City Clerk Richards. Council advised a number of internal and external applications were received, suggested the need to close applications and devise a plan to handle applications received, and then decide how to proceed. Council Members also discussed suggested closing applications Friday or Monday.

After further discussion, Blasier moved, Sattlem seconded, to close City Clerk / I.T. Administrator applications Monday, April 9, 2018, at the close of business 4:00 p.m.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Blasier, Sattlem, Schumann, Tall
Nays: Beauchamp

MOTION CARRIED.

Blasier moved, Schumann seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, for Council to discuss the City Clerk / I.T. Administrator replacement at the City Budget Hearing on Tuesday, April 10th.

Hazardous Material Removal Cost for 910 Ludington Street.

Administration requested Council to approve an invoice from Pearson Asbestos Abatement, Inc., in the amount of \$1,275, to begin the inspection for hazardous material. If approved, approval of the invoice of \$1,275 will allow the initial inspection, samples, and an invoice for hazardous material removal for approval at the April 19th Council Meeting, plus the demolition bid.

DeGrave briefly reviewed the Hazardous Material process and advised the cost for hazardous material and demolition would be available at the April 19th Council Meeting.

NB-5 After discussion, Schumann moved, Blasier seconded, to approve an invoice from Pearson Asbestos Abatement, Inc., in the amount of \$1,275, to begin the inspection for hazardous material.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mayor Tall, with Council Consensus, made the following appointments:

Mike Dewar to the Housing Commission, term ending June 1, 2022;

Interim Public Works Director, Keith Marenger, to the Solid Waste Management Authority.

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

Mayor Tall read the following Proclamation:

- April 27, 2018, as Arbor Day in the City of Escanaba;

City Council Minutes
April 5, 2018 – cont.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor