

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, July 19, 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, Ralph B. Blasier, Peggy O. Schumann, Ronald J. Beauchamp, Ralph B. Blasier, and Michael R. Sattem.

Also Present: City Treasurer Robert Valentine, City Attorney Ralph B.K. Peterson, City Clerk Lisa M. Glish, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Clerk Glish led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES

Sattem moved, Schumann seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from July 5, 2108, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Ed Legault from the Downtown Development Authority requested a Special Event Application for the Escanaba Downtown Sidewalk Sales to take place on Saturday, July 28, 2018 be added to the agenda.

Blasier moved, Schumann seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to allow the addition of the Special Event Application for the Escanaba Downtown Sidewalk Sales be added to the agenda.

Sattem moved, Schumann seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the agenda as amended.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION - None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Flynn, Escanaba Citizen, stated that she was in opposition of allowing bicycles in the business district.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption of Ordinance No. 1199 – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 27, Article II, Section 27-400, of the City of Escanaba Code of Ordinances, Traffic and Motor Vehicles.**

Administration is requesting the City Council amend Section 27-400 of the City Code of Ordinances, regarding Riding on sidewalks.

This being a public hearing, Mayor Tall asked if there was any public comment.

Hearing no public comment, Mayor Tall closed the public hearing.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

PH-1 “By Council Member Blasier, seconded by Council Member Sattlem;

Resolved, That Ordinance No. 1199, the Traffic and Motor Vehicles Article II, Section 27-400 Ordinance Amendment, given its public hearing at this meeting, be and is hereby adopted and that it be published in accordance with the requirements of the City Charter.”

Herewith Ordinance No. 1199 adopted by title:

**"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTERS 27 – TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES
ARTICLE II, SECTION 27-400."**

Full text in Ordinance Record “K”.

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

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval – 2018/19 Street Paving Contract Award – Department of Public Works.

Administration is seeking Council approval to retain Payne and Dolan, Inc. of Gladstone, MI for the 2018/19 fiscal year paving projects. Administration is recommending Council approval of the proposed stated unit prices. This appropriation is included in the approved FY2018/19 budget.

After Council discussion, it was determined that the bid package was not included with the back-up information.

NB-1 Schumann moved, Beauchamp seconded, to table the 2018/19 Street Paving Contract Award until more information is provided to Council.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Approval – Lease Agreement – Community Action Agency.

Administration is seeking Council approval of an annual lease agreement between the City of Escanaba and the Community Action Agency for the Senior Center activities at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Under the terms of the lease, the annual lease payment would remain the same.

NB-2 Blasier moved, Sattem seconded, to renew the annual lease agreement between the City of Escanaba and Community Action Agency for the Senior Center activities at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval - Use of Public Space – Ludington Street – Escanaba Downtown Sidewalk Sales.

The Escanaba Downtown Development Authority is requesting the City Council approve the closure of Ludington Street from 9th Street to 14th Street on July 28, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the annual “Escanaba Downtown Sidewalk Sales” event.

NB-3 Schumann moved, Blasier seconded, to approve the Special Event Application for the Escanaba Downtown Sidewalk Sales event to take place on July 28, 2018 on Ludington Street from 9th Street to 14th Street.

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

Ayes: Schumann, Blasier, Sattem, Beauchamp, 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

Jim Berthiaume, citizen, requested the following be read into record:

“My FOIA request has come back it showed that the HR department drafted and posted the clerk’s position, this was not done following proper channel (and I am working on to find out why, because I still at this point, do not know who drafted the qualifications and the experience sections of the job posting). Posting the Clerks position was never brought to Council for discussion; it was Mayor Tall’s responsibility to do so. The posting showed the qualifications that were required; this also was not discussed by Council. Mayor Tall failed to follow proper procedure; Mayor Tall should have passed the posting onto council for discussion that would have given Council a heads up on the proposed postings and qualifications. Council then could have accepted it as is or made changes.

Council lost the ability to serve properly by this conduct. Is there a personal agenda by Mayor Tall’s actions? Holding documents from being shared with council was not a mistake. His actions affected the clerk’s office directly. It also impacted the county clerk’s office as well. This also affected an employee’s chance to advance. Council had ranked up to four applicants per member of Council; Mayor Tall never included this employee in his list sent to the HR Department. This employee has 16 years of dedicated service to the City. Council had three employees, Clerk, Assessor, Manager; the way that this issue was handled, Council has two employees, with Mayor Tall having one. Did Mayor Tall even look or read the employee’s resume? I attended all three interviews that took place in Council Chambers; I thought this employee had the job. Due to the fact that she has been in the office for 11.5 years with a spotless record. Council sent her to school to obtain her CMC Certificate at a cost of \$4,000. Mayor Tall said quote “Jim, we are dealing with apples and oranges. Miss Weissert has all the experience and the others don’t.” So if she has all the experience, then why was she not on Tall’s list of applicants? This is not Mayor Tall’s first time, Mayor Tall was on council, which affected the way I conducted business in this community, my friends and family helped protect it. Through the election process in those days, the community made changes to help prevent that from happening again, and here we are in round two.

Council member Schumann ranked this employee a (4) with (1) being most qualified. Schumann said quote “Jim, Wouldn’t it be great if Ms. Weissert was promoted after going through this hiring process”. Then I felt this employee has a really good chance of getting the job after hearing that. During the interview of the applicant’s, Council Member Schumann offered very little questions of the applicant. She said quote “I don’t know what questions to ask. I’m going to leave the questions to you, the council”. This was on a Tuesday, the voting to hire (2) days later, when council member Schumann at that point was 100 percent sure of her choice. Did council member Schumann even read the apps? I’ve been following these council meeting for quite some time now, and found that council member Schumann offers very little, when it comes to the issues at the council meeting, she hardly offers any, comments, concerns or suggestion. Is she offering the same commitment to her council packets, as she did in reading this employee’s resume? Council member Schumann only stated that she had no questions during this employee interview and not the other (2) applicants.”

City Council Minutes
July 19, 2018 – cont.

Jim Berthiaume then further explained his opposition of the City Clerk hiring process that occurred, resulting in the hiring of candidate Lisa Glish over candidate Tammy Weissert.

Karen Flynn, citizen, explained her dislike of the allowance of bicycles in the Business District (Ludington Street).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blasier stated that there will be an event called “Fly Ball” taking place on August 4th-5th in the Miracle of Life building at the Fairgrounds.

Schumann stated that the Trappers Convention will be in Escanaba that coming week, and she encouraged everyone to welcome the participants. Schumann then reminded everyone of Sidewalk Sale Day that coming Saturday (July 28th), which also includes a car show, ending the day with Marina Fest taking place in the Escanaba Marina.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa M. Glish
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor