

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Special Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 23, 2018**

The special meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 1:00 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 Manager Patrick Jordan, City Clerk Lisa M. Glish, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

Absent: City Attorney Ralph B.K. Peterson,

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Beauchamp moved, Blaiser seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to amend the August 23, 2018 Special Meeting Agenda to include “#5 - Michigan Municipal League (MML) Conference Agenda for September 20-22, 2018; #6 - Sound System and Camera Quality in Council Chambers; #7 - Status Update on Jail Project; and #8 - FOIA Request from United Impact Group, LLC”.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None.

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Berthiaume addressed the Council directing his comments to Schumann and Tall stating “You don’t always get what you want”. He also restated his opinion on promoting Tammy Weissert to the position of City Clerk, stating that she already has a CMC Certification and she can do the I.T. while working through DSTech.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval – Engineering of the Pier 2 Replacement Project – Marina.**

Administration requested to award the Engineering of the Pier 2 Replacement Project to Bittner Engineering of Escanaba, MI at a cost not to exceed \$17,500. Larry Gravatt, Harbor Master, addressed the Council explaining that the award would not result in a physical dock, it would be the plans and engineering for the dock project in the future.

**NB-1** Sattem moved, Blasier seconded, to award the Engineering of the Pier 2 Replacement Project for the Marina to Bittner Engineering of Escanaba, MI at a cost not to exceed \$17,500.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. Approval – Resolution of Support for the Completion of MDOT Contract 21022-11377.**

Administration sought Council approval of a Resolution supporting the completion of MDOT Contract 21022-11377 (a.k.a. the Escanaba River Bridge Project located on Highway US-2 in Delta County).

**NB-2** After discussion, Beauchamp moved, Schumann seconded, to approve the Resolution supporting the completion of MDOT Contract 21022-11377, with an edit changing the word “demands” to “encourages” in the final paragraph of the Resolution to now read “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Escanaba encourages the timely completion of the bridge project at the Escanaba River Bridge which is described in more detail by contract 21022-113777 with MDOT.”

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Approval – Amendment to the City of Escanaba’s Master Fee Schedule.**

Administration sought Council approval of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City of Escanaba Master Fee Schedule as it pertains to FOIA copies per page for paper larger than 8 ½” x 11”.

**NB-3** After discussion, Schumann moved, Blasier seconded, to approve the amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City of Escanaba Master Fee Schedule as it pertains to FOIA copies per page for paper larger than 8 ½” x 11” to be \$0.15 per page.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

After approval of the Master Fee Schedule Amendment, Schumann requested to have the added agenda item concerning the FOIA Request from United Impact Group, LLC be moved as the next item of the meeting; Tall approved of the agenda move.

#### **4. Discussion - FOIA Request from United Impact Group, LLC**

Glish updated the Council on the FOIA request that came in from United Impact Group, LLC concerning the copying of Election materials used during the November 8, 2016 Election.

**NB-4** After discussion, Blasier moved, Schumann seconded, if it is legal to demand the entity (United Impact Group, LLC) to come to Escanaba to view the requested information and at that time bill at the per hour wage and benefit rate of the FOIA Coordinator, along with obtaining the highest deposit that is legal.

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

Ayes: Blasier, Schumann, Beauchamp, Tall

Nays: Sattem

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

After further discussion concerning the request specifically asking for physical paper copies, it was decided to add this item to a Special City Council Meeting which was then set for Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at which time the City Attorney will be addressed concerning the issue.

After discussion it was decided to carry on with the amended agenda items, and to move proposed Item #4 – “Discussion – City Clerk’s Office, City Assessor’s Office, and I.T. Department” to be Item #8.

#### **5. Discussion - Michigan Municipal League (MML) Conference Agenda for September 20-22, 2018.**

A discussion took place concerning the upcoming MML Conference taking place September 20-22, 2018, it was determined that there is a lack of details for the Conference Agenda. This item will be added to an upcoming agenda once more information is released by the MML.

#### **6. Discussion - Sound System and Camera Quality in Council Chambers.**

A discussion took place concerning the sound system and camera quality in the Council Chambers; it was determined that the City Manager and City Clerk will need to work on a remedy for the issue and report back to Council at an upcoming meeting.

**7. Discussion - Status Update on Jail Project.**

Jordan gave an update on the Delta County Jail Project, he stated that he has a packet concerning the project as a whole, and he will forward that packet onto Council.

**8. Discussion - City Clerk's Office, City Assessor's Office, and I.T. Department**

Tall stated that the exiting Clerk Glish extended her departure date to be September 28, 2018.

A discussion took place concerning upcoming changes the Assessor's Office due to a scheduled retirement and the inability to attract a new City Assessor for the past three (3) years, and the possibility of splitting the City Clerk and I.T. Department into two (2) separate positions. It was determined that this item would be further discussed at the scheduled Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

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

Tall appointed Elizabeth Keller and Monte Morrison to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Tall then appointed Stephen Davis to the Planning Commission.

**BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.**

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judi LaCosse, Escanaba Resident, stated that the City once had an I.T. Department but due to cuts previous City Clerk Robert Richards did I.T. as a hobby and requested it be part of his position. She then reminded Council that there is already a Certified Clerk on staff and to remember that during the hiring process.

Jim Berthiaume, Escanaba Resident, stated that the hiring process for the City's position is becoming difficult and political.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Blasier stated that "Yappy Hour", an event being held at Upper Hand Brewery to benefit the Delta County Animal Shelter is taking place on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

City Council Minutes  
August 23, 2018 – cont.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa M. Glish  
City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marc D. Tall, Mayor