

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Special Council Meeting
Friday, March 23, 2012**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted March 21, 2012, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Leo J. Evans at 8:00 a.m. in room C101 of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Leo J. Evans, Council Members Walter A. "Pete" Baker, Patricia A. Baribeau, Ronald J. Beauchamp, and Brady L. Nelson.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Library Director Carolyn Stacey

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Baker moved, Nelson seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the agenda as submitted.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – County-wide Library Millage.

The County-wide Library Millage request before the Delta County Board of Commissioners was discussed. Manager O'Toole and Library Director Stacey reviewed the history of the County-wide Library Millage proposal. The following was discussed:

- Service Area terms of original ballot proposal changed with Masonville Township opting out of the City Service area, and the possibility of other Townships opting out;
- It was Administration's recommendation to withdrawal the County-wide Ballot Millage request based on the negatively affected funding reduction the City would receive. Administration believed, due to the changes in the City Service Area, the Escanaba Public Library would not be able to sustain the current level of services based on the millage it would receive from a County-wide millage request;
- City has had the millage question before the County for one year. There has been no cooperative effort from the County Commission, and many road blocks from the County this issue;
- Council Members questioned the number of City services provided to County residents that the City taxpayers were paying for. Some members questioned whether the County should be asked to help with these services;
- This was still a Library financial funding issue for the City. It was questioned whether changes could be made now to reduce expenses. Currently, running as a Class V Library, the State of Michigan requires the City to remain open at 50 hours per week to obtain current funding. Masonville Township service area change

City Council Minutes
March 23, 2012 – continued

would not go into effect until August 2012, where the City Library would change to a Class IV Library. Class IV Libraries were required to be open 40 hours per week;

- County Commissioner Dave Moyle apologized for all the politics the City of Escanaba went through over the past year trying to get the County Board to put this item on a county-wide ballot proposal to no avail. Mr. Moyle stated he was elected to represent the City of Escanaba residents in County Commission District IV, and would continue to do so.

After further discussion, Baribeau moved, Beauchamp seconded, to withdrawal the City of Escanaba request to the Delta County Board of Commissioners to place a County-wide millage proposal for library services.

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

Ayes: Baribeau, Beauchamp, Evans

Nays: Nelson, Baker

MOTION CARRIED.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Hearing no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Richards, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____

Leo J. Evans, Mayor