

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Mark Ammel at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Mark Ammel, Council Members, Ronald J. Beauchamp, Tyler DuBord, Todd Flath, and Karen Moore

Absent: None

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

City Clerk DeMay led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DuBord moved, Flath seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting minutes from October 20, 2022, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

DuBord moved, Flath seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to add discussion of possible closure of Water Plant Road to New Business item number 5 and Approval of the letter of resignation from City Manager Patrick Jordan to New Business item number 6. Then move closed session to New Business item number 7 after Announcements and before Adjournment.

DuBord moved, Flath seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council Agenda as amended.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sue Parker – discussed the DDA application process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Discussion – Progress Regarding Sale and Development of Jail and Chamber Sites – Administration.

Administration updated City Council on the progress regarding the sale and development of the Jail and Chamber properties.

City Assessor James McNeil updated council on the progress of the development of the Jail and Chamber properties.

UB-2 Approval – WTP Project – 10% Construction Contingency – Water.

Administration requested City Council approval to make a contingency of \$1,055,995.00 Million Dollars (10%) available with regard to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Project that Staab is conducting for \$9,783,000.00 Million Dollars.

UB-2 Beauchamp moved, Moore seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to table this item after closed session New Business item number 7.

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Approval – Changes to DDA Application and Appointment Process - DDA.

The DDA, at its regular meeting held on October 27, 2022, sought City Council approval of changes to the DDA application and appointment process, under PA57 of 2018.

NB-1 DuBord moved, Flath seconded, to approve the new DDA application with the correction of the wording to hand the application into the City Clerk.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Flath, Moore, Beauchamp, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-2 Approval – Purchase of K-9 for Escanaba Public Safety - EDPS.

Escanaba Public Safety requested City Council approval to purchase a Dual Purpose Narcotic Detector Dog from Vohne Liche Kennel to replace our current K-9. The quoted cost for the K-9 is \$20,275.78. This was not a budgeted item but grant and drug forfeiture money will be used for this purchase.

NB-2 Beauchamp moved, DuBord seconded, to approve to purchase a Dual Purpose Narcotic Detector Dog from Vohne Liche Kennel to replace our current K-9 for the quoted cost of \$20,275.78.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, DuBord, Moore, Flath, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-3 Approval – Mutual Aid Agreement – EDPS.

Escanaba Public Safety requested City Council approval to enter into the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS). This would provide the City of Escanaba resources from across the state in the event of a large emergency.

NB-3 DuBord moved, Flath seconded, to approve to enter into the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS).

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

Ayes: DuBord, Flath, Moore, Beauchamp, Mayor Ammel
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-4 Approval –Stump Grinding Bid– Public Works.

Administration sought approval to contract with Dombrowski Tree Service at the proposed unit prices for stump grinding.

NB-4 Moore moved, to approve to contract with Dombrowski Tree Service at the proposed unit prices for stump grinding. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilmember Beauchamp suggested that Taavola (Public Works Superintendent) get prices on a stump grinder and bring that back to council. – No official motion was made.

NB-5 Discussion – Possible Closure of Water Plant Road – Water Department.

Administration will update council on possible closure of Water Plant Road.

NB-5 Flath moved, Mayor Ammel seconded, to approve closure of Water Plant Road.

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

Ayes: Flath, Mayor Ammel, Moore, Beauchamp, Flath
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-6 Approval – City Council will Accept the Letter of Resignation by the City Manager Patrick Jordan.

City Manager Patrick Jordan has given his letter of resignation to City Council to accept.

NB-6 DuBord moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve the letter of resignation from City Manager Patrick Jordan.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Beauchamp, Moore, Flath, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-6 DuBord moved, Moore seconded, to appoint James McNeil Interim City Manager.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Moore, Beauchamp, Flath, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-7 Closed Session – Discussion Regarding City’s Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

City Attorney requested a closed session to discuss a written legal opinion per MCL 15.268(1)(h).

Closed session was moved to the end of the meeting after announcements and before adjournment.

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

Council Consensus made the following appointment:

Kasja Nelson appointed to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, expiring June 1, 2025.

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

- Trick or Treating was a great success this year with an excellent turnout.
- City Attorney updated council on Utility Pole litigation.
- High School Musical Sister Act will be going up on November 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22nd. Tickets are available at the High School.

The time being 8:03 p.m. Flath moved, DuBord seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, the Council recessed.

The time being 8:11 p.m. DuBord moved, Flath seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, came back in session.

NB-7 Closed Session – Discussion Regarding City’s Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

City Attorney requested a closed session to discuss a written legal opinion per MCL 15.268(1)(h).

DuBord moved, Flath seconded, to go into Closed Session.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Flath, Moore, Beauchamp, Mayor Ammel
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The time was 8:11 p.m.

Beauchamp moved, DuBord seconded, to come back into Open Session.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, DuBord, Moore, Flath, Mayor Ammel
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The time was 8:58 p.m.

No Council actions were taken during closed session.

NB-7 Beauchamp moved, Mayor Ammel seconded, to proceed with this matter based on what Mr. Lampi has provided along with City Attorney Lisa Vogler's suggestions. Revisit this possibly on the next agenda at the November 17th meeting.

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

Ayes: Beauchamp, Mayor Ammel, Moore, DuBord

Nays: Flath

MOTION CARRIED.

UB-2 Approval – WTP Project – 10% Construction Contingency – Water.

Administration requested City Council approval to make a contingency of \$1,055,995.00 Million Dollars (10%) available with regard to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Project that Staab is conducting for \$9,783,000.00 Million Dollars.

UB-2 DuBord moved, Moore seconded, to approve a contingency of \$1,055,995.00 Million Dollars (10%) available with regard to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Project that Staab is conducting for \$9,783,000.00 Million Dollars.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Moore, Beauchamp, Flath, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Hearing no further public comment Flath moved, the Council adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____

Mark Ammel, Mayor