

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2023**

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 Manager James R. McNeil, City Clerk Phil DeMay, Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

City Clerk DeMay led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flath moved, DuBord seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting minutes from March 2, 2023, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member DuBord moved, New Business item #5 to New Business item #2 and moved the rest of the items to follow.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jared Drown – discussed New Business item #4.
- Irina Bruno – requested funding for the Bonifas Arts Center for 23/24 fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Public Hearing – Citizen Participation – 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget Preparation.

A public hearing was conducted to facilitate input from citizens for the City's next fiscal year budget. This was the third of five (5) scheduled public hearings.

This being a public hearing, Mayor Ammel asked for public comment.

Mark Hannemann – discussed training courses for Board, Commission, and Committee members.

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Ammel then closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Approval – Authorizing Resolution – Recreation.

The Recreation Department sought City Council approval and authorization to apply for Public Gathering Spaces (PGS) Competitive Funding Round. The City of Escanaba requested \$800,000 in CDBG Funds to construct eight dedicated pickleball courts, demolition and construction of basketball court, resurfacing of two tennis courts and removal and upgrade of playground equipment at Royce Park. There will be a \$100,000 committed match from the City of Escanaba.

“**NB-1** By Council Member DuBord, seconded by Council Member Moore:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-05

**CITY OF ESCANABA
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Strategic Fund has invited Units of General Local Government to apply for its Public Gathering Spaces (PGS) Competitive Funding Round; and

WHEREAS, the City of Escanaba desires to request \$800,000 in CDBG funds to construct eight dedicated pickleball courts, demolition and construction of a basketball court, resurfacing of two tennis courts and removal and upgrade of playground equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Escanaba commits local funds from the UDAG Fund in the amount of \$100,000 of committed match; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with local Community Development Plan and the Five-Year Recreation Plan as described in the Application; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will benefit all residents of the project area and the low/moderate percentage of the City of Escanaba residents are low and moderate income persons as determined by the census data provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

WHEREAS, local funds and any other funds to be invested in the project have not been obligated/incurred and will not be obligated/incurred prior to a formal grant

award, completion of the environmental review procedures and a formal written authorization to obligate/incur costs from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Escanaba hereby designates the City of Escanaba Recreation Director as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant.

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

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.”

NB-2 Approval - Authorizing Resolution – Recreation.

The Recreation Department sought City Council approval and authorization to apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. The City of Escanaba requested \$300,000 in Trust Fund monies to construct eight dedicated pickleball courts and resurfacing of the basketball court at Royce Park. There will be a \$100,000 committed match from the City of Escanaba.

“**NB-2** By Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Beauchamp:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-06

**RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION-CITY OF ESCANABA MATCH WITH
DONATED FUNDS**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

WHEREAS, the City of Escanaba supports the submission of an application titled, "Royce Park Dedicated Pickleball and Resurfaced Basketball Court" to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for development of eight dedicated pickleball courts and resurfacing of the basketball court located at Royce Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the City of Escanaba's Five-Year Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Escanaba is making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$100,000 matching funds in cash; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded the applicant commits its local match and donated amounts from the following sources:

City of Escanaba	\$100,000
------------------	-----------

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Escanaba hereby authorizes submission of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for \$300,000 and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment and donation of \$100,000 of a total \$400,000 project cost during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

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

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.”

NB-3 Approval – Request to Purchase City Property – 8th Avenue South - Manager.

Administration requested City Council approval of the sale of City land for consideration equal to the appraised value of \$10,100. The request included 20 acres of landlocked area north of 8th Ave S.

Moore moved to approve the sale of City land for consideration equal to the appraised value of \$10,100 for 20 acres of landlocked area north of 8th Ave S. The motioned died on the floor due to a lack of a second.

NB-3 DuBord moved, Beauchamp seconded, to postpone the sale of City land for consideration equal to the appraised value of \$10,100 for 20 acres of landlocked area north of 8th Ave S until the next council meeting.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-4 Approval – Request to Purchase City Property – 12th Road - Manager.

Administration requested City Council approval of the sale of City land for consideration equal to the appraised value of \$15,000. The request included 40 acres of landlocked area southwest of the airport, outside the City limits.

NB-4 DuBord moved, Flath seconded, to postpone the sale of City land for consideration equal to the appraised value of \$15,000 for 40 acres of landlocked area southwest of the airport, outside the city limits until the next council meeting.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-5 Approval – Letter of Support – Wells Water-Sewer Project - Manager.

Administration requested City Council approval for administration to draft and submit a letter of support for the Wells Water-Sewer Project.

NB-5 Flath moved, DuBord seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve for administration to draft and submit a letter of support for the Wells Water-Sewer Project.

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

Manager McNeil, with Council Consensus made the following reappointments:

Matthew Sviland reappointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, expiring April 1, 2026;

Thomas Warstler reappointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, expiring April 1, 2026;

BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Members reviewed City Board and Commission meetings each attended since the last City Council Meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Aaron Dieter – discussed Escanaba Kiwanis Home and Garden show on April 14th, 15th, and 16th.
- Rory Mattson – discussed letter of support for Wells Water-Sewer project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Special Olympics basketball tournament was a great success!

Hearing no further public comment DuBord moved, the Council adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mark Ammel, Mayor