

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, May 4, 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 April 20, 2023, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Flath moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council Agenda as submitted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council Member Moore declared a conflict of interest with New Business item number two because she is the Executive Chair of Enhance Escanaba.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karen Caswell – discussed library budget.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Public Hearing - Proposed 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget.

City Council conducted the fourth public hearing and scheduled the final public hearing and approval of the 2023-24 City budget for May 18, 2023.

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

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

PH-1 Beauchamp moved, DuBord seconded, to set May 18, 2023, as the final public hearing and approval of the 2023-24 City budget.

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

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PH-2 Public Hearing - Obsolete Properties Rehabilitation District No. 28 - 723 Ludington Street – Assessor.

The Obsolete Properties Rehabilitation Act (PA 146 of 2000) allows partial exemption of property taxes for a specified period for certain types of property improvements within a specified area. The intent of the legislation is to encourage rehabilitation of underutilized or decaying commercial or commercial/residential properties in certain designated communities such as Escanaba. The first step in the OPRA process was the establishment of a district consisting of one or more eligible properties. In accordance with program requirements, the owner of 723 Ludington Street has submitted a request that the City establish an OPRA District, which if approved, would allow for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation exemption in the future.

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

Ryan Brayak – discussed their consideration of Obsolete Properties Rehabilitation.

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

“PH-2 By Council Member DuBord, seconded by Council Member Flath:

Resolution 23-11

**CITY OF ESCANABA, DELTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH
OBSOLETE PROPERTY REHABILITATION (OPRA) DISTRICT NO. 28**

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 146 of 2000, the City of Escanaba has the authority to establish “Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Districts” within the City of Escanaba; and

WHEREAS, Lake Effect Distillery, LLC has filed a written request with the clerk of the City of Escanaba requesting the establishment of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for an area in the vicinity of 723 Ludington Street located in the City of Escanaba hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Escanaba determined that the district meets the requirements set forth in section 3(1) of PA 146 of 2000; and

WHEREAS, written notice has been given by mail to all owners of real property located within the proposed district and to the public by newspaper advertisement in the Daily Press and/or by public posting of the hearing on the establishment of the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2023, a public hearing was held and all residents and taxpayers of the City of Escanaba were afforded an opportunity to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest of the City of Escanaba to establish the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escanaba that the following described parcel(s) of land situated in the City of Escanaba, Delta County, and State of Michigan, to wit:

Parcel #051-010-2929-306-001, 051-010-2929-306-003, 051-010-2929-306-004; LOTS 4, 5, 6, AND THE NORTH 67.5 FEET OF LOTS 7 AND 8 OF BLOCK 40 OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT

be and here is established as an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District pursuant to the provisions of PA 146 of 2000 to be known as Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District No. 28.

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Condemnation Located at 1620 9th Avenue South – Code Enforcement.

At the January 19, 2023, City Council meeting, the City Council postponed the condemnation of 1620 Avenue South until May. Administration recommended City Council discontinue the condemnation process.

UB-1 DuBord moved, Moore seconded, to discontinue the condemnation process of 1620 Avenue South.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Setting Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Public Hearing – May 18, 2023 – 723 Ludington Street – District No. 28 – Assessor.

Lake Effect Distillery, LLC, owner of 723 Ludington Street, has requested to be enrolled in the Obsolete Properties Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) (PA 146, 2000) which allows for partial exemption of property taxes for a specified period of time so that certain types of property improvements can be made. The intent of the legislation is to encourage rehabilitation of underutilized or decaying commercial or commercial/residential properties in certain designated communities. Administration recommended Council set a public hearing date for May 18, 2023, so there is public understanding of the project.

NB-1 DuBord moved, Beauchamp seconded, to set a public hearing date for May 18, 2023, for the OPRA District No. 28 – 723 Ludington Street exemption so there is a public understanding of the project.

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

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-2 Approval – Request to Develop and Maintain Garden on City Property – Manager.

Enhance Escanaba has requested City Council authorization to build and maintain a garden on Sand Point. A proposed agreement and sketch were included in the agenda packet.

NB-2 DuBord moved, Flath seconded, to postpone the request from Enhance Escanaba to build and maintain a garden on Sand Point.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Flath, Beauchamp, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

Abstain: Moore

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Manager McNeil, with Council Consensus made the following reappointments:

Lynn Soderberg reappointed to the Board of Library Trustees, expiring June 1, 2026;

David Bleau reappointed to the Harbor Advisory Committee, expiring June 1, 2026;

Crystal Porior reappointed to the Harbor Advisory Committee, expiring June 1, 2026;

Shirley Gollach reappointed to the Recreation Advisory Board, expiring June 1, 2026.

Council made the following reappointment:

Michael Harris reappointed to the Planning Commission, expiring June 1, 2026;

Mark Sadowski reappointed to the Planning Commission, expiring June 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 – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May the 4th be with you!
- Esky Clean up next week!
- On May 14th the 1st crew ship will arrive.

Hearing no further public comment, Flath moved, the Council adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mark Ammel, Mayor