

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 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, and Karen Moore

Absent: Council Member Todd Flath

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.

DuBord moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to excuse Council Member Flath's absence.

Moore moved, DuBord seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting minutes from September 21, 2023, as submitted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

- Craig Woerpel – Discussed Spooktacular Trunk or Treat Sunday October 22nd 4-6pm.
- Ed Legault – Discussed City Manager review.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Public Hearing - Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Termination – City Manager.

In accordance with the MERS Plan Termination Policy, this was the first of two consecutive public meetings to discuss termination of the MERS Defined Benefit Pension Plan. At the next council meeting, administration will request adoption of a termination resolution and approval of the successor plan named "City of Escanaba

Defined Benefit Retirement Plan."

City Administration and City Council gave an opportunity for MERS representatives to speak on what they offer to the employee retirement system. Along with answering questions or concerns.

City Manager James McNeil presented to Council a review of why administration is suggesting a termination from MERS.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Approval - Fire Hydrant Painting – Water Department.

Administration requested City Council approval to hire Markley's Precision Company LLC to paint fire hydrants at \$515 per hydrant with lead abatement and \$410 per hydrant with non-lead in an amount not to exceed \$80,000. Money was available and budgeted for this activity.

NB-1 DuBord moved, Beauchamp seconded, to approve to hire Markley's Percision Company LLC to paint fire hydrants at \$515 per hydrant with lead abatement and \$410 per hydrant with non-lead in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

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

Ayes: DuBord, Beauchamp, Moore, Mayor Ammel

Nays: None

Absent: Flath

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-2 Approval - Engineering Inspection of Antennas of South Water Tower – Water Department.

Administration requested City Council approval to retain the services of Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services to perform an inspection of NMU antennas of South Water Tower in an amount not to exceed \$1,450. NMU will fully reimburse the City for these costs.

NB-2 Moore moved, DuBord seconded, to approve to retain the services of Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services to perform an inspection of NMU antennas of South Water Tower in an amount not to exceed \$1,450.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-3 Approval – WTP Asphalt Patching – Water Department.

Administration requested City Council approval to obtain the services of Payne and Dolan of Gladstone, MI to complete the needed asphalt patchwork created from work done on the water system in an amount not to exceed \$590.00/ton. Money was budgeted and available.

NB-3 Moore moved, DuBord seconded, to approve to obtain the services of Payne and Dolan of Gladstone, MI to complete the needed asphalt patchwork created from work done on the water system in an amount not to exceed \$590.00/ton.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NB-4 Approval – Use of Public Space – Spooktacular Trunk or Treat - DDA

Escanaba DDA sought City Council approval to close South 11th Street from Ludington Street to 1st Avenue South and North 11th Street from Ludington Street to 1st Avenue North for a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Event Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) Administration recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) Proper insurance be provided naming the City of Escanaba as an additional insured, 2) The event sponsors provide all labor and material to clean up at the conclusion of the event.

NB-4 Moore moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve a request from the Escanaba DDA to close South 11th Street from Ludington Street to 1st Avenue South and North 11th Street from Ludington Street to 1st Avenue North, along with Ludington intersection for a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Event Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), provided: 1) Proper insurance be provided naming the City of Escanaba as an additional insured, 2) The event sponsors provide all labor and material to clean up at the conclusion of the event.

NB-5 Presentation – Summary Report – Ogden Triangle Historic Resource Inventory – Planning & Zoning.

At their regular meeting on September 18, 2023, the Historic District Commission moved to forward the Summary Report for the Ogden Triangle Historic Resource Inventory to City Council for their review and comments.

NB-6 Discussion - City Manager Review – City Council.

City Council discussed the City Manager's review as outlined in the contract.

City Council members felt that it was not necessary to go through an official written review. Council members gave rave reviews on the City Managers performance and commended him on his ability to achieve above and beyond his set goals in a year.

Moore moved, Beauchamp seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to give an official 4 performance review to be recorded in his personnel file.

Absent: Flath

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

Manager McNeil, with Council Consensus made the following appointment:

Amy Reddinger appointed to the Board of Library Trustees, 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

- Craig Woerpel – discussed grant funding to revitalize downtown Escanaba.
- Tyler Anthony – discussed appointments for ZBA.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stephenson Ave. is paved! Great job by all the workers completing the project!
- Council Election is coming up November 7, 2023!

Hearing no further public comment, DuBord moved, the Council adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mark Ammel, Mayor