

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted January 3, 2023, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Mark Ammel at 3:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim City Manager Jim McNeil, City Clerk Phil DeMay, Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Discussion – 2023-24 Operating Budget Preparation.

Administration led a discussion concerning the upcoming 2023-24 operating budget and sought Council input on items the Council as a whole would like to see considered for inclusion in the budget. Additionally, the various departments updated the Council on budgetary opportunities and challenges for the upcoming year.

- Interim City Manager McNeil provided a general review of the overall budget and expectations regarding Revenue Sharing, Tax Revenues, and State Personal Property Tax.
- City Controller Melissa Becotte discussed the revenue sharing picture; No major equipment purchases. The rest of the Controller's budget will be "normal" for this year's budget;
- City Treasurer/HR Administrator Kim Gustafson discussed BSA software and possibility of Utility payment kiosks;
- Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi updated Council on the current and future status of his departments. Lampi discussed construction projects, water treatment project, maintenance costs, staffing update, equipment purchases, grant opportunities, applications for loans, future problems, and discussed capital improvement increases. Mr. Lampi gave a handout and breakdown of proposed expenditures;

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- Public Safety Director Robert LaMarche updated Council on retiring employees and new hires. Also, discussed budget items such as training, staffing, new body and dash cameras, building maintenance, and continue the conversation of a new ladder truck;
- Planning and Zoning Administrator Tyler Anthony discussed zoning updates, possible fee increases, and budget update;
- City Library Director Carolyn Stacey discussed budget items including penal fines, staffing, technology needs, outreach program, operating costs, and grants. Also gave an update on mobile outreach vehicle;
- Electric Superintendent Gerald Pirkola discussed capital and operating budget, projects, SCADA upgrade, power contract and rates, compacity, bucket truck update, AMI installation, cold storage garage, pole testing, and tree trimming;
- City Recreation Director Kimberly Peterson reviewed Recreation budget, projects and equipment, and SPARK grant update;
- Public Works Superintendent Wendy Tavvola discussed equipment purchase, staffing update, building maintenance, fuel station replacement or upgrade, grants, Salt Dome update, sidewalks, woodchipper, garbage trucks, and radio system upgrade;
- City Clerk/IT Administrator Phil DeMay discussed the upcoming elections. Possible election in May and a City Council election in November 2023. Would like to purchase a collapsible precinct tabulator bin for precinct 2. Discussed the replacement of the van that was purchased in 1998. There are no major purchases in the Clerk's Office other than training for City Clerk and Deputy Clerk. DeMay discussed the current technology projects and discussed updating the City Meraki firewall license (\$10,000), Key fob install on selected doors at City Hall, security system overhaul. Additional camera in council chambers;
- City Assessor James McNeil discussed the preparation of the 2023 tax base; it is expected to remain stable. There are no major additions or subtractions to the Assessor or Board of Review budgets;
- Downtown Development Authority Director Craig Woerpel discussed storefronts in downtown Escanaba, RRC update, marketing and promotions, new logo for the DDA, and events update;
- Harbor Master Shane Sanville was not present.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

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Hearing no further public comment, Flath moved, DuBord seconded, the Council adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mark Ammel, Mayor