

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted January 2, 2024, 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: City Manager James R. 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 – 2024-25 Operating Budget Preparation.

Administration led a discussion concerning the upcoming 2024-25 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.

- City Manager McNeil provided a general review of the overall budget and expectations regarding Revenue Sharing, Tax Revenues, General Fund, and State Personal Property Tax.
- City Controller Melissa Becotte discussed the revenue sharing picture; discussed increase workload for staff with pension plan. No major equipment purchases. The rest of the Controller's budget will be "normal" for this year's budget. Also discussed City Hall Maintenance Department budget requests.
- City Recreation Director Kimberly Peterson reviewed the Recreation budget, projects, equipment, building maintenance, employees, and grant updates.
- Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi updated Council on the current and future status of his departments. Lampi discussed construction projects, water/wastewater projects, maintenance costs, staffing update, equipment purchases, grant opportunities, applications for loans, future problems, and discussed capital improvement. Mr. Lampi gave a handout and breakdown of

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proposed expenditures. City Manager McNeil gave an overview of street project proposals.

- City Library Director Carolyn Stacey discussed budget items including penal fines, staffing, technology needs, outreach program, operating costs, book mobile, and grants.
- Downtown Development Authority Director Craig Woerpel discussed downtown Escanaba, marketing and promotions, business entrepreneurship, maintenance of marketplace, vandalism, and events update.
- City Treasurer/HR Administrator Heather Calouette discussed staff update, improvements to payment drop off, BSA software update.
- Public Safety Director John Gudwer discussed budget items such as training, staffing, new body and dash cameras, building maintenance, attracting new officers to vacant positions, and continue the conversation of a new ladder truck.

DuBord moved to go into a recess.
Time being: 4:34 p.m.

Flath moved to go back into session.
Time being 4:43 p.m.

- Electric Superintendent Gerald Pirkola discussed capital and operating budget, projects, power contract and rates, compacity, renewable Clean Energy Bill update, staffing, building projects, equipment purchases, AMI installation, cold storage garage, pole testing, and tree trimming.
- Planning and Zoning Administrator Tyler Anthony discussed zoning updates, possible fee increases, office equipment purchases, grant opportunities, and budget update.
- Public Works Superintendent Kent DuBord discussed equipment purchase, staffing update, building maintenance, fuel station replacement or upgrade, grants, Salt Dome update, sidewalks, woodchipper, garbage trucks, and security cameras.
- City Clerk/IT Administrator Phil DeMay discussed the upcoming elections. Proposed a pay increase for Election Inspectors and Chairs, business equipment purchases, training, and staffing.
- IT Administrator DeMay discussed the current technology projects and discussed updating the City Meraki firewall license. Discussed security camera project in the future.

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- City Assessor James McNeil discussed the preparation of the 2024 tax base; it is expected to remain stable. There are no major additions or subtractions to the Assessor or Board of Review budgets;
- Harbor Master Shane Sanville was not present.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

Hearing no further public comment, Flath moved, DuBord seconded, the Council adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mark Ammel, Mayor