

**City of Escanaba
Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

Pursuant to a meeting notice posted April 1, 2024, the Council of the City of Escanaba reconvened in special session in Room 101 of City Hall at 9:00 a.m., to continue the review and discussion of the proposed 2024/25 City Budget.

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 Controller Melissa Becotte, City Clerk Phil DeMay, Department Heads, media, and members of the public

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

DuBord moved to come back into session, time being 9:00 a.m.

The following Department Heads presented their budgets:

Public Safety Police Chief, John Gudwer – 9:05 a.m.

Public Safety Director John Gudwer reviewed the 2024/25 proposed Public Safety budget with Council. The following was reviewed:

- School Safety Officer update;
- Discussed staffing;
- Fire Fighter and Police equipment update;
- Body Camera and Dash Cam update;
- Discussed Grants;
- Public Safety Training;
- Fire Fighting Training;
- Code Enforcement discussion;
- Crossing Guard update;
- K9 Update;
- Repair and maintenance to building;
- Building generator;
- Capital outlay discussions.
- General Funds discussion.
- HVAC System
- New Patrol vehicle and K9

Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Jeff Lampi – 9:55 a.m.

Mr. Lampi reviewed the following 2024/25 proposed Water/Wastewater budget items with Council:

WasteWater Department:

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- Proposed projects, capital purchases and proposed budget increase;
- Engineering Costs for Plant Improvements;
- Wastewater Rate Increase;
- Lift Station Update;
- Collection System Infiltration Study;
- Plant upgrades;
- Discussed Capital Outlay;
- Replacing technology.
- Staffing update.
- Grants and loans.

DuBord moved to go into recess, time being 10:42 a.m.

DuBord moved to come back into session, time being 10:52 a.m.

Water Department:

- Income, Operation, and Capital Expenditure Statements;
- Discussed Water Main Replacements;
- Discussed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI);
- Increase in training;
- Discussed Grant Money;
- Proposed projects and capital purchases;
- Clean water ITA;
- Water rate increase;
- Office Equipment Upgrades.
- Discussed engineering projects.
- Staffing discussions.

Human Resources Director/City Treasurer, Heather Calouette – 11:55 a.m.

Human Resources Director/City Treasurer Heather Calouette reviewed the 2024/25 proposed HR and Treasurer Department budgets with Council. The following was reviewed:

- Human Resources and Treasurer's Department Budgets;
- Professional Services additional costs;
- Capital Expenditures;
- New computer purchases;
- Discussion on new Drop Box for Utility Bills.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Craig Woerpel – 12:10 p.m.

Craig Woerpel reviewed the following 2024/25 proposed DDA Budget with Council and discussed the following budget line items:

- Revenue and Fund Balance;

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- Discussed Downtown Signage;
- Grant opportunities;
- Discussed Marketing, Promotions and Events;
- Farmers market;
- DDA building update.
- Ludington Street projects.
- Discussed events and opportunities at the marketplace.
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DuBord moved to go into recess, time being 12:51 p.m.

DuBord moved to come back into session, time being 1:00 p.m.

City Manager, James McNeil – 1:30 p.m.

- Discussed Salaries;
- Discussed any changes to the General Fund.
- Marihuana Tax revenue.
- Downtown patrol discussion.
- Land Development funds.
- Interest earnings.

City Assessor, James McNeil – 1:30 p.m.

Mr. McNeil reviewed the following 2024/25 proposed Assessor budget items with Council:

- Tax Tribunal update;
- Education & Training;
- Assistant Assessor update;
- Board of Review Budget;
- Millage rate discussion;
- Professional Services Update.

City Controller, Melissa Becotte – 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Becotte reviewed the following 2024/25 proposed Controller budget items with Council:

- Discussed MERS;
- Discussed auditor fees;
- MERS pension plan;
- General Fund;

- Computer replacement.

City Manager and City Controller discussed EBA (Escanaba Building Authority) Fund, Brownfield, CDBG Grant, and Communications Fund.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

During discussion, it was Council consensus to make the following changes to the Proposed 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget:

- Increase 202-474-920-000 Public Utilities by \$10,000 - this was missed in the budget request
- Increase 203-469-943-000 Equipment Rental by \$9,500 - this was reduced in error
- Increase 101-345-976-000 Capital Outlay by \$35,000 to add replacement of air conditioning units
- If \$3,000 in 101-720-885-050 is not needed for the City Band Celebration, it will be included in the General Fund transfer to the Library.
- Administration is to add necessary capital budget amounts to Water and WW budgets for estimated expenditures for ARPA I, ARPA II, and CWSRF projects.
- Council decided to leave the Lifeguard budget as recommended.

After further discussion, Moore moved, DuBord seconded, to approve all changes to the Proposed 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget.

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

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Hearing no further public comment, Flath moved, the Council adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved:

Mark Ammel, Mayor