

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN
Special Council Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2019**

Pursuant to a meeting notice posted on February 1, 2019, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 410 Ludington Street.

Present: Mayor Marc D. Tall, Council Members, Ronald J. Beauchamp, Ralph B. Blasier, Michael R. Sattem, and Peggy O'Connell Schumann.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Patrick S. Jordan, City Department Heads, media, and members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Schumann moved, Sattem seconded, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve the City Council agenda as submitted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

NEW BUSINESS -

Declaration of Emergency

On February 1, 2019 a severe water main break in the area of 1st Ave. North and Ludington Street caused road closures for most of the day. As a result, traffic was rerouted, loss of water, overtime costs, and equipment issues. Therefore, the Mayor of the City of Escanaba in accordance with section 10 of Act 390, P.A. 1976 as amended, has declared a "State of Emergency".

Robert Berbohm (Delta Schoolcraft Emergency Management Coordinator) stated Governor Whitmer declared a "State of Emergency" for the entire state on January 29, 2019, in anticipation of the extreme cold weather forecasted. The extreme cold weather is believed to have contributed to the main water break on February 1, 2019. "Because the governor declared ahead of us, it's sort of new for us", said Berbohm. It is still unknown whether Governor Whitmer will open up the contingency fund (Section 19) to provide assistance to counties and municipalities that declared emergencies. The key point for (Section 19) is that the incident was 1 percent or more of the affected agency's annual general fund operating budget or \$30,000, whichever is less. It is at the point and above that we are looking at qualifying for (Section 19).

City Controller Melissa Becotte believes the total costs related to the water main

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break to be at least \$50,000. Only a portion of that would be eligible for reimbursement. For instance, the city can only be reimbursed for overtime pay. Since most of the work on the incident was done during regular operating hours, the city anticipates only around \$5,000 in wages will be reimbursable. The threshold for us to reach is \$23,000, which is 1 percent of the Water Department operating expenditure budget. It's unknown if the threshold can be met. It will come down to what other entities that aided us are going to send the city for bills. At this point we don't have that information. It is recommend by Controller Becotte to continue with the process until we gather all information for submission.

City Manager Patrick Jordan recommended that we move forward with the declaration of a "State of Emergency" and continue to track our costs to meet the threshold and deadline the state has set.

NB-1 Blaiser moved, Beauchamp seconded, to support the Mayor's Declaration of Emergency.

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

Ayes: Blasier, Beauchamp, Schumann, Sattem, Tall
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil DeMay
City Clerk

Approved: _____
Marc D. Tall, Mayor