

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ESCANABA, MICHIGAN  
Work Session Meeting  
Wednesday, January 9, 2019**

Pursuit to a special meeting notice posted December 21, 2018, the meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marc D. Tall at 10:00 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.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion – 2019-20 Operating Budget Preparation.**

Administration led a discussion concerning the upcoming 2019-20 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 following departments updated the Council on budgetary opportunities and challenges for the upcoming year.

- Manager Jordan, City Controller Melissa Becotte, and City Treasurer/HR Administrator provided a general review of the overall budget and expectations regarding Revenue Sharing, Tax Revenues, and State Personal Property Tax. Administration did not anticipate any large increases in the State Revenue. Administration advised they are looking at a small increase for Street Funding, also Pension contributions for 2019-20 budget are going to increase;
- City Controller Melissa Becotte advised no proposed changes in the Controllers Department other than Assistant Controller Alaina will be going on maternity leave in a few months and will be out for 12 weeks;
- City Controller Melissa Becotte advised nothing out of the ordinary for the Clerk's Department budget. Will have new City Clerk Phil DeMay do the budget when he starts working for the City. Manager Jordan advised on not knowing the impact of Proposal 3 and how it will affect the Clerk's Office;
- City Controller Melissa Becotte advised nothing out of the ordinary for the Assessor's Department budget other than it is hard to pick a good number for professional services due to not knowing where all the tax tribunals will end up;
- Blaine DeGrave City Community Development/Planning and Zoning Director advised he is looking at a new program called "iWorQ" that will help his

City Council Minutes  
January 9, 2019 – cont.

department do their job more efficiently. Suggested putting money aside for demolitions of buildings and would like to consider giving Roxanne Spencer a raise;

- Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi stated some major concerns were planning and implementing the SRF project for the Wastewater Plant upgrades. Part of the SAW Grant was spending down some of the current fund balance and would like to consider buying a sewer truck and build a garage or two instead of using SRF Funds. Reviewed generator replacement at the Ludington Lift Station, CIPP Lining plans, and would like to put new flooring in at the Water Plant;
- City Library Director Carolyn Stacey advised the proposed 2019/20 Library Budget would request that the lighting be converted to LED lighting. Will have a continued emphasis on technology that will be reflected in the budget. The demand for digital resources, services, and training for staff to keep up to speed. Also, have goals to digitize local history resources next fiscal year through grants. Also, Strategic Plan does expire 2019 and will be looking at public participation process to put together a new Strategic Plan;
- City Recreation Director Kimberly Peterson reviewed Recreation budgets which included replacement of the Ludington Park Tennis Courts, Civic Center Generator Project, new lawn mower, porta johns at the ski hill area and Rock the Dock. Also reviewed various grants;
- Public Safety Director Rob LaMarche reviewed the Public Safety proposed budget that included the Hero Program, Mentoring program for at-risk kids and Citizen Academy. Parking lot is falling apart and needs to be replaced. Interview Room IT based maintenance contracts, replace expired Fire Gear, new server to house digital evidence, HVAC system needs to be cleaned out and purchase of two new vehicles. In long term the City would need to replace the ladder truck,
- Public Works Director/City Engineer Bob Becotte reviewed road repair projects, storm sewer lining and an increase in tree budget due to ash borer;
- Downtown Development Authority Director Edward Legault advised budget would include reimbursing City borrowed funds, and continuation of the Façade Program. Parking lot maintenance, curb and sidewalk repair, possible street scape, outside lighting at Center Court and budget deficit elimination plan were also discussed;
- Electric Superintendent Mike Furmanski reviewed proposed Electric Budget items which included pole replacement, a proposed Rate study, and Solar Farm project;
- Harbor Master Larry Gravatt reviewed proposed Harbor and Marina Budgets. He advised an increase in the Marina rates, dock improvements, change out fuel monitoring system at the marina, upgrade fuel delivery system, also need to change out lighting at the North Shore boat launch to LED lights.

- Council Members weighed in what they thought the city staff was excelling at and what should be primary budgetary concerns for each department, roads are a major concern, also treatment of trees to prevent the beetle's destruction.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

Hearing no further public comment, the Council adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy A. Weissert, CMC  
Interim City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marc D. Tall, Mayor