

City of Kingsford
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
305 S. CARPENTER AVE. KINGSFORD, MI 49802

Roll Call of Council: Present: Dixon-Miller, Freeman, Olson, Flaminio, Groeneveld

Excused:

Others present: Michael Stelmaszek (City Manager), Holly Palmer (City Treasurer), Henry McRoberts (City Attorney), Le Crandall (Public Safety Lieutenant), Jeff DeMuri (DPW Superintendent), Kyle Mulka (City Assessor), Maggie Lanthier (Daily News), Dale Trombly, Andrew Wiltzius, Kristi Marotz, Jacob Marotz

Mayor Groeneveld led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes:

- A. Council Meeting of December 15th, 2025 – **Motion** by Olson, **seconded by** Flaminio to approve the minutes for the December 15th, 2025, Council Meeting as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Agenda: **Motion** by Freeman **seconded by** Dixon-Miller to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Invoices: **Motion** by Dixon-Miller; **seconded by** Freeman to approve the invoices payable from December 16th, 2025, to January 5th, 2026, in the amount of \$237,976.88.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Consent Agenda:

- A. Public Works Report – December

- Request authorization to take the low bid from Great Lake Petroleum for a new fuel system for the department of public works.

Motion by Flaminio; **seconded by** Olson to authorize Jeff DeMuri to accept the low bid from Great Lakes Petroleum for a new fuel system for the DPW.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. Assessors Report - December

Motion by Freeman, **seconded by** Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment:

Jacob Marotz, who is a Life Scout, approached the council regarding a project idea he had to create a pavilion at Lodal Park near the pickle ball courts for his Eagle Scout Project. City Manager Stelmaszek responded, stating that the city welcomes Eagle Scout projects and improvements to the city. Stelmaszek would like to meet with him to review the plans and figure out logistical issues.

Communications: None.

Manager's Report:

1. There were 10 hunters who participated in the annual city hunt that ended on January 1st. They took a total of 36 deer.
2. John Holland from MRWA visited city hall on December 11th, 2025, to gather information to complete a rate study for the city to prepare for #4 and provide more needed funding for our Sewer Fund balance.
3. The Milestone Schedule for Project #4 has been completed with a "Notice to Proceed" date of no later than October 26th, 2026. There is a possibility that the contractor will start this fall, however, the bulk of the project will be completed during the 2027 construction season. All is in place for Payne and Dolan to complete the rest of Project #2 and #3 during this year's (2026) construction season.
4. The city's Christmas Event went well. We had more activities and attendance than last year. With the help of the Michigan National Guard, the Kingsford Schools and the City Staff and council members we had another successful event organized and carried out by Jennifer Castro.
5. We met with the County and MDOT officials on the county's non-motorized path project (225738) on both sides of the Pine Mountain Road into the city of Kingsford to Joseph Street that will connect to the Kingsford

path system and allow for access into the Iron Mountain's City Park. All is falling into place for this project to occur this spring and for Kingsford to contribute the not to exceed amount of \$30,000 for the Kingsford Portion of the project.

6. The Citizens Advisory Committee is coming up on January 12th, 2026. Members are asking to evaluate uses for the city's new property adjacent to Lodal Park. Much work is also needed this year to prepare this side for development by Spring of 2027. If it is the pleasure of the council, I can advise this committee to complete an evaluation process to determine the pros and cons of their top three usage ideas for what would result in an expansion of Lodal Park and the city's overall parks system. There was a consensus by members in support of this request and no vote was taken.
7. Scott Sternhagen and his staff from CLA have completed their audit for the fiscal year 24-25. Scott will be presenting their findings at the next meeting.
8. Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, the next City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026.

Groeneveld commented on the Christmas event that he's received nothing but positive remarks from people on the event and thanked Jennifer and city hall staff for bringing it to the community.

Motion by Flaminio; **seconded by** Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the Manager's Report.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Public Input Session on Curbside Automated Recycling for Kingsford – Stelmaszek started the discussion - The approximate cost of a cart is \$55. Kingsford has 2,288 households that need carts. If you increase the amount of carts requested to 2,500 to allow new households and replace damaged carts, the cost of the needed carts would be \$137,500. 20% of this amount is \$27,500. Groeneveld asked for public comment. Andrew Wiltzius approached the council to speak in favor of recycling in Kingsford but was wishing there would be other options to avoid having it be mandatory. He also spoke about his concerns about the impact it would have on TRICO Opportunities. Flaminio commented that he doesn't like the idea of having to mandate the program either and hoped more would have signed up voluntarily. Freeman added that if garbage pick-up was a voluntary program, he feels there would be people who wouldn't voluntarily sign up either. He's interested to see how much is saved in garbage tonnage fees once recycling is in place. Stelmaszek commented on Andrew Wiltzius' concerns about TRICO stating the city would do what they can to encourage the public to continue taking their paper to TRICO. Groeneveld mentioned that the city has been working with TRICO the last two years on providing a shred event.
- B. Deliberation/Council Decision Regarding the Application for the State Recycling Cart Grant & to Mandate Recycling Services -

Motion by Freeman; **seconded by** Flaminio to approve the commitment to curbside recycling for the city and to apply for the State Recycling Cart Grant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS – DIXON-MILLER, FREEMAN, OLSON, FLAMINIO, GROENEVELD – NAYS – NONE.

MOTION CARRIED.


Hearings – None.

Public Comment – None.

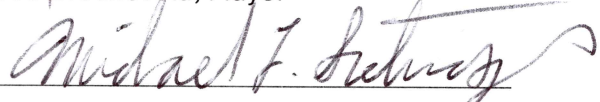
Councilmember's Privilege – Olson stated that she enjoyed herself at the Christmas event and she was happy to see people using the ice rink at Lodal Park. Groeneveld wished Jacob Marotz well with his Eagle Scout Project.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Freeman; **seconded by** Dixon-Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:07PM.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Joe Groeneveld, Mayor



Michael Stelmaszek, City Manager/Clerk