

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Minutes of the regular meeting of the city council of the City of Kingsford, County of Dickinson, and State of Michigan.

A regular meeting of the Kingsford City Council was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Flaminio, Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Remer and Baldinelli
Absent: none

Also present were City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Brian Metras, Treasurer Holly Palmer, Deputy Clerk Tanya Hiltonen, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], Stephanie Mieras, Maisie Mieras, Mark Miller, Steve Coron [GFL], Darrell Finley [GFL], Mark Harrick [Waste Management]

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve the February 7th, 2022 City Council Meeting minutes as presented.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the agenda as amended.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the invoices for February 8th, 2022 through February 22nd, 2022 in the amount of \$231,855.38.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Safety Report – January 2022
 - KPS Training Request

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to approve the Kingsford Public Safety training request in the amount of \$550.00
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- Treasurer's Report – January 2022
 - Request for Holly Palmer to attend training from Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association to obtain her certification as a treasurer.

A motion was made by Mayor Remer and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve Holly Palmers training from Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association and costs associated.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- Centennial Committee's Minutes – January 2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to receive and place on file the consent agenda.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment

Mark Miller approached the council to voice his opposition to outsourcing garbage collection to Waste Management or GAD [GFL]. He also requested that action be made to fix a burned down house on 431 Wright St. that has not been addressed for over a year; stating that it was a "hulk and a danger to the public".

Stephanie Mieras approached the council to discuss the possible renovations at Ford Park citing the need for updated park equipment for the kids to play on. Her daughter, who often plays at the park attended the meeting as well. Stephanie mentioned with the number of kids that play at the park during the summer, the equipment needed upgrades mentioning that it was one of the nicer parks in the city with all of its shade. She mentioned that the tennis courts need to be addressed as well.

Public Hearings

- USDA KPS Controlled Vehicle Grant
 - Application for a new squad car. City Cost = \$23,825. Rural Development Cost = \$29,119. This would be for an all-wheel drive Dodge Durango. No Comment by the public at this time.

Communications

- K-IM Community School Summer Youth Program Request
 - This request is to receive \$2,000.00 to help offset program expenses and keep activities affordable for most families.

A motion was made by Mayor Remer and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to fund the request.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- City Attorneys Correspondence Regarding Open Meetings Act
 - Attorney General's opinion:

It is my opinion, therefore, that the American's with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act require state and local boards and commissions to provide reasonable accommodations, which could include an option to participate virtually, to qualified individuals with a disability who request an accommodation in order to fully participate as a board or commission member or as a member of the general public in meetings that are requested by Open Meetings Act to be held in a place available to the general public.

A brief discussion took place in regards to how this would be implemented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the City Attorney's Correspondence Regarding Open Meetings Act.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The Manager's Report was presented by Stelmaszek.

- Stelmaszek added to the Manager's report to respond to Mr. Mark Miller's comment about the building on Wright Street. He mentioned the house was red tagged by the County Code Commission as a danger to the city and the owner was notified. The owner was given until snow fall to remove the building but didn't do so. A hearing will be set to resolve this. If the owner does not remove it in the time that is set after the hearing the city would pay to have the home removed and the cost would be added to the owner's taxes.
- Notice for the March Board of Review has been provided.
- The city has completed and submitted the increased ITA of 6 million dollars to the State for the Heights Project.
- Tanya Hiltonen requested to attend a one-day class in Marquette on April 6th, 2022. It is a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training put on by NMPSA. Stelmaszek requested approval from the Council for Tanya to attend this training.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve Tanya Hiltonen's request to attend the training for FOIA and OMA on April 6th along with costs associated.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- Jennifer Freeman requested to attend a one-day class in Marquette on March 9th, 2022. It is a training for "Word", "Excel" and "Power Point" software put on by NMPSA. Stelmaszek requested approval from the Council for Jennifer to attend the training.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve Jennifer Freeman's request to attend the March 9th training in Marquette along with the costs associated.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- John Holland from the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) will be at the next meeting to give a presentation on his Water and Sewer Rate Study for the City of Kingsford. The Water Rate study was included in the packets to review. The Sewer Rate study is still being completed but will be included in the next meeting packet.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Groeneveld to receive and place on file the February 22nd, 2022 Manager's Report.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

- Renovation Request for Ford Park
 - Stelmaszek read an email from Donna Percolosi who could not attend the meeting. She sent the email to share her and other residents' wishes for new park equipment at Ford Park. She had previously applied for the BOSS grant to obtain new playground equipment but did not receive the grant. Stelmaszek stated he too has plans to apply for the BOSS grant to obtain new playground equipment for Ford Park and Olympic Park. Stelmaszek continued with his request to use ARPA Funds to resurface the tennis courts and turn them into a parking lot which would help limit the vehicle traffic from entering the park from the alley. The fencing would be repurposed to use in the construction of a pickle ball court next to the tennis courts at Lodal Park. Stelmaszek reiterated he fully intends to apply to the BOSS Grant to update the equipment at Ford Park and Olympic Park but would like to resolve the issue of the parking lot at Ford Park first.

Stelmaszek continued with reading his memo regarding the proposed renovation plan.

When they were constructed, the tennis courts at Ford Park were built to a high standard, using concrete and other construction materials allowed for its sustained use

for many years. I used it often in the 1990's when I lived on Hamilton Avenue. Age has led to large cracks and heaving that have created an uneven surface on the court that no one wants to use anymore. When I checked on the court last summer long weeds were growing through the many cracks and were undisturbed due to lack of use. Our current recreation plan estimates that it would cost approximately \$50,000.00 to refurbish the Ford Park tennis courts to make them serviceable again. Within the City, eight tennis courts now exist at the nearby school complex and four years ago, is still serviceable, and unlike other parks in the city, at Ford Park, a lack of barriers allows vehicle traffic to access the park and playground area. I would like to use ARPA funds to limit vehicle traffic from entering the park from the alley, resurface the tennis court with asphalt and turn it into a parking lot (refer to attachment), then repurpose the fencing around it to use in the construction of a pickle ball court next to the tennis courts at Lodal Park. I respectfully request City Council's approval to proceed with these renovations as soon as the weather allows for it.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the intended renovation request for Ford Park.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to table the issue and go over different options.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

New Business

1. Bid opening for Sanitation RFP Bids

- First bid is for GFL (Green for Life):
 - Residential waste weekly pick-up including recycling once a month would be \$12.75 with \$1.50 extra per second container. Fuel surcharge and cost of living adjustment would be added.
 - Residential waste pick-up not including recycling would be \$8.80 with \$1.50 extra per second container. Fuel surcharge and cost of living adjustment would be added.
- Second bid is for Waste Management:
 - Residential waste weekly pick-up including recycling once a month would be \$16.00 with \$5.00 per additional container. Fuel Surcharge and cost of living adjustment would be added.
 - Residential waste pick-up not including recycling would be \$11.70 with \$5.00 per additional container. Fuel surcharge and cost of living adjustment would be added.

A brief discussion took place regarding the additional tipping fee that would be added onto the cost. City Manager Stelmaszek stated that the bid information would be taken to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation.

2. 2022 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines

- They City Council sets the income limits and asset levels that the Board of Review must follow when considering poverty exemptions. These guidelines need to be adopted annually to reflect changes in the federal poverty income level. Also included in the guidelines are some forms that the Michigan Dept. of Treasury has published for use by poverty exemption applicants.
 - City of Kingsford 2022 Poverty Exemption Policy & Guidelines
 - Michigan Dept. of Treasury form 5737: Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption
 - Michigan Dept. of Treasury form 5739

A request was made by Stelmaszek for the City Council to accept these new guidelines as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to adopt the new 2022 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

3. County Flag

- Baldinelli brought up that Dickinson County designed a flag and adopted it mentioning Commissioner Kramer asked if the City of Kingsford was interested in purchasing a flag. A cost was not provided at this time but will be provided at a later date.


No Public Comment at this time

Council Member's Privilege

- Council Member Baldinelli mentioned that he would like to see more playground equipment.
- Mayor Remer asked everyone to stay safe.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.



Mayor



Clerk