

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 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 Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Remer, Baldinelli, Flaminio, Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller  
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], Admin Asst/Accounts Payable Jennifer Freeman, Breitung Township Schools Superintendent David Holmes, Dennis Jandreau, Deirdre LeMay, City Assessor Kyle Mulka, Donna Pericolosi, John Holland [MRWA] & Steve Coron [GFL]

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to approve the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 through March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the amount of \$188,094.27.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Works Report – February 2022
  - Request for (2) DPW department staff to attend the Michigan Rural Water Association water training and certification class. 4 Employees have also signed up to take the S-4 and S-3 water certification tests in May 2022.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the training for the DPW workers.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

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

#### Public Comment

Donna Pericolosi, City of Kingsford resident, approached the council to discuss the proposed Ford Park renovations. She mentioned that the park is frequently used by area residents and the need for updated or new park equipment versus a large parking lot.

Council Member Dennis Baldinelli commented that he and Councilmember Cynthia Dixon-Miller had discussed proposing two half-court basketball courts leaving a small amount for parking which would be brought up at a later meeting.

#### Communications

Charter Communications sent a letter notifying that the channel line-up would be changing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the notification from Charter Communications.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The Manager's Report was presented by Stelmaszek.

- A sign-up sheet for the Board of Review was attached and Stelmaszek asked that if any schedule conflicts arise to get in touch with him right away.
- Kyle Mulka obtained his level 3 MAAO certification from the State of Michigan. He is now a certified Assessor at the level recommended by the State for a city of Kingsford's size, property class and complexity.
- Tanya Hiltonen has requested to attend a conference in Traverse City hosted by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Attendance will assist in obtaining her next MAMC certification level. Transportation and lodging will be split between herself and another attendee. Stelmaszek requested approval from the Council for Tanya to attend the training.

A motion was made by Council Member Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve Tanya attending the MAMC training along with associated costs.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- John Holland from the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) will give a presentation on his water and sewer rate study for the City of Kingsford. The sewer rate study was included in each council packet and the water rate study was included in the previous council packet.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to receive and place on file the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Manager's Report.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

#### Old Business

- Request Hearing for the Blight Ordinance at 6:45pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and for the Noise Ordinance at 7:00pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- - The City Manager went on to say that the City of Kingsford has had blight and noise issues for many years. Since his employment as City Manager, he has received several valid blight complaints from Citizens who he has been unable to assist. Since last October, he had been working with the City's Zoning Administrator, Kyle Mulka, the City Attorney, Public Safety Director, Brian Metras and the Planning Commission on the matter. The collaboration resulted in the two draft ordinances attached to the memo. Stelmaszek asked for the Council's approval to set a hearing date for each of the two tentative Blight and Noise Ordinances for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:45pm and 7:00pm

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to set a hearing date for the Blight Ordinance at 6:45pm April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and for the Noise Ordinance at 7:00pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- Land Swap Proposal with Breitung Township Schools
  - Stelmaszek went over his Land Swap proposal with Breitung Township Schools.
    - The Original proposal was to exchange the lots 23 and 24 of the Smeester subdivision located along Pyle Drive which are owned by Breitung Township Schools for the property owned by the City of Kingsford located directly north and east of the Breitung Township Schools Superintendent's office building property located at 810 Pyle Drive.
    - Since the last meeting an issue arose with potential new buyers for a residence that borders lot 23. This property, although Breitung Township School property, had been utilized and maintained by the sellers of the residence. The purchasers made an offer on the house with the assumption that the property was included in their purchase. David Holmes, Superintendent of Breitung Township Schools would like to work with the Breitung Township Building Grounds Committee to propose exchanging lots 24 & 25 with City of Kingsford so that the Breitung Township Schools can work with the purchasers on lot 23. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the property. Stelmaszek requested a motion to allow the City Attorney and the City Manager to process a land swap with Breitung Township Schools between the city owned property adjacent to their practice field for Lot 23 and 24 of the Smeester Subdivision or Lot 24 and 25 of the Smeester Subdivision depending on the outcome of the School Board's decision.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Baldinelli to allow the City Attorney and the City Manager to process a land swap with Breitung Township Schools between the city owned property adjacent to their practice field for Lot 23 and 24 of the Smeester Subdivision or Lot 24 and 25 of the Smeester Subdivision depending on the outcome of the School Board's decision.

ROLL CALL:

AYES – REMER, BALDINELLI, DIXON-MILLER, FLAMINIO, GROENEVELD

NAYS – NONE

- Contracting of Sanitation Services
  - Both bid packets were provided to the Planning Commission for their review of the cost and viability of contracting out the pick up and disposal sanitation services in the City of Kingsford. Opinions were mixed with five members in favor of contracting out the service, three members against contracting out the service and one member absent. Those who were opposed cited the increased cost as an issue and problems in implementation for those who have garbage pick up in their alley due to the need for automated garbage to be picked up on the street. Those in support of contracting out and automating the service cited this as an opportunity for getting recycling added at some point in the future, also citing that the state could mandate recycling as soon as 2024. Included in the packets were demographic information that Stelmaszek prepared in order to show the cost of the lowest bill that was still higher than the City's current cost for the Council to review.

- Total current monthly cost to residents = \$13
- Monthly Household cost using the lowest bid = \$14.55 with (1) can and \$16.05 with (2) cans
- Both bidders opted for having a fuel surcharge which is not included in the totals of \$14.55 and \$16.05. With the rising cost of fuel that means that the cost could be higher.

A request was made by Council Member Dennis Baldinelli to hear public comment

Dennis Jandreau approached council to oppose contracting out sanitation pick-up.

Steve Coron, a representative for GFL, the lowest bidder, mentioned that the cost for the cans could be removed which would lower the cost to residents but would still be more than the current cost to residents. He also addressed the issue with the fuel surcharge.

Dennis Baldinelli spoke about concerns that he has received from residents regarding removing the two DPW workers in the case of inclement weather or other issues that may arise in the city. Work may not get done and vacation may not be able to be taken.

Michael Flaminio spoke about the concerns for some of the community members that are used to having their garbage picked up in the alley off the back of their garage and the struggle it would be to have to change it to the front of their house, especially for the elderly community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller opposing contracting out sanitation pick-up.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- Request to fill two vacancies in Department of Public Works
  - With both DPW works retiring at the end of March 2022 Stelmaszek requested immediate approval from the Council to fill both vacancies.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve filling the (2) vacancies in the Department of Public Works.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

#### New Business

- Energy and Environmental Update
  - Dennis Baldinelli brought up new movements to have all new construction homes be electric including heat with every new home having an outlet for charging vehicles. He also brought up that there is \$3.3 billion in ARP money that hasn't been appropriated yet and that we can look forward to seeing at least 5% in constitutional revenue sharing with the probability that they will give another 5% in statutory.
- Public Safety Training Request
  - Stelmaszek Requested both school resource officers attend training in Appleton Wisconsin June 14<sup>th</sup> & June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The cost is \$235.00 each. 36 hours of overtime for each officer and 2 days Meal Allowance for each officer. The total training will cost \$4,400.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the training request for both officers to attend the training in June 2022.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- Resolution Authorizing Scott A. Winters to Purchase Military Service Credit
  - Stelmaszek presented the resolution 2022.3.7.1 to the City Council and explained that Scott met all of the requirements for the resolution and requested that the Council adopt the resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to adopt the resolution 2022.3.7.1.

ROLL CALL:

AYES – REMER, BALDINELLI, DIXON-MILLER, FLAMINIO, GROENEVELD

NAYS – NONE

- Rate Study Presentation for Water and Sewer Services
  - John Holland from MRWA presented the water and sewer rate presentation. Based on the outcome of his findings he recommended that the water and sewer rates increase in order to fund necessary future projects.

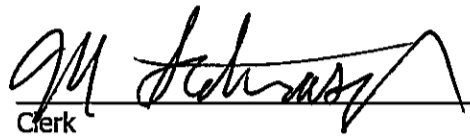
There were no Public Hearings scheduled at this time.

There were no Pubic Comments scheduled at this time.

Under Councilmember's Privilege, Councilmember Groeneveld congratulated Kyle Mulka on his achievement and asked for clarification on what the proposed Blight Ordinance. Councilmember Baldinelli brought up the sewer rates and how we would go about the possible rate increases. Councilmember Flaminio mentioned the recommended increases to the sewer and water rate and the potential financial pains to the City's residents. City Manager Michael Steimaszek mentioned a major water main break that happened over the weekend. Mayor Remer congratulated Kyle Mulka and thanked John Holland for his presentation on the sewer and water rate presentation.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk