

City of Kingsford  
Special Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers  
Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 4:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Kingsford City Council was held on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:30pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Baldinelli, Dixon-Miller, Flaminio, Groeneveld, Remer  
Absent: None

Also Present: Jim Stearns, Jeff DeMuri

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

No minutes to review at this time.

No invoices to review at this time.

No consent agenda at this time.

No public comment at this time.

No communications at this time.

No Manager's report at this time.

#### Old Business

##### A. Utility Infrastructure Discussion

- The infrastructure was designed to last 100 years and has been managed up to this point but now, reaching the 100-year bench mark, we are starting to see the need for upgrades due to leaks and breaks in the recent years. Stelmaszek emphasized that there will need to be a significant utility rate increase in order to address the repairs and replacements. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the age of the infrastructure and the replacements needed.

##### B. Water Rate Adjustment

- After the rate study report and presentation by John Holland from the Michigan Rural Water Association, it was determined water rates need to be raised substantially for (4) major reasons: operational costs, operational maintenance, capital improvements and to address the lead copper line issue. Both Westwood Avenue and East Breitung Avenue Road projects are slated for the next budget year. The Westwood Avenue project has approximately 24 access lines that need to be replaced leaving the entire water fund cost for the East Breitung Avenue project mostly unfunded. The East Breitung Avenue project will require 10 access lines, 3 hydrant replacements, a waterline extension and an additional storm sewer pipe from the area of pizza oven to Carpenter Avenue for a cost of around \$150,000.00 which would need to come out of the 591water fund balance. Stelmaszek went over all of the upcoming projects with MDOT and the need to increase rates to help fund the upcoming projects. Stelmaszek went through the Water rate study proposal with the council. A lengthy discussion took place about the rates and possible billing changes.

##### C. Sewer Rate Adjustment

- The sewer rate study showed a need to raise sewer rates in order to address (3) issues: Operational costs, Operational Maintenance and the Capital Improvement project (Replacing the sewer line at KHS and on a section of Carpenter Avenue, two lift station replacements and adding a gravity sewer line). Stelmaszek went over his lengthy memo and pointed out his reasoning for looking to increase the sewer rates throughout the sewer rate study with the council. A lengthy discussion took place.

##### D. Garbage Rate Adjustment

- After going through the process of possibly contracting out our garbage pick-up services, we found a need to increase our rates. The tipping fee has been raised twice but the rates have never accounted for the raised cost to the city. Stelmaszek would like to proposed raising the rates from \$13.00 to \$14.00 starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A brief discussion took place regarding the rates.

#### New Business

##### A. HSA Disbursement

- a. Stelmaszek requested that city employees be allowed to request and receive their July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 HSA Disbursement until May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, provided they sign an agreement that this would be a one-time opportunity and will be required to pay back if they leave employment with the city prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A lengthy discussion took place. The request was denied due to lack of support to make a motion.

No public hearings at this time.

No public comment at this time.

No councilmember's privilege at this time.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and seconded by Councilmember Groeneveld to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

These minutes have been approved. If signed copies are needed, they can be retrieved at the Kingsford City Hall.