

City of Kingsford
Regular Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, August 7th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Kingsford City Council was held on Monday, August 7th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call: **Present:** Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Freeman, Baldinelli, Flaminio
Absent:

Also present were: City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, DPW Superintendent Jeff DeMuri, Floyd Lindholm, Derek Collar, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], Nicole Dorman, Bob Goodreau, Tracy Payette, Tracy Lafleur & Joshua McCole

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of the Minutes:

A. Special Meeting Minutes – July 26th, 2023

Motion by Flaminio; **second** by Dixon-Miller to approve the minutes of the special meeting on July 26th, 2023 as presented.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

B. Board of Review Minutes – July 18th, 2023

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Baldinelli to approve the minutes of the Board of Review meeting on July 18th, 2023 as presented.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion** by Baldinelli; **second** by Dixon-Miller to approve the agenda as presented

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices: **Motion** by Baldinelli; **second** by Flaminio to approve the invoices from 7/17/2023 thru 7/31/2023 for payment in the amount of \$462,099.99

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

A. Public Works Report

1. EGLE Water Certification Testing for 4 DPW Workers – **Motion** by Flaminio, **second** by Baldinelli to send 4 DPW workers to the EGLE Water Certification Testing.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

2. Training for Water Monitoring & Testing – **Motion** by Baldinelli, **second** by Freeman to approve sending 2 DPW workers to the training in Iron Mountain for Water Monitoring & Testing.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

B. Centennial Committee minutes

Motion by Flaminio, **second** by Baldinelli to receive and place on file the consent agenda.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Public Comment: Tracy Payette of Sterling Street approached the council regarding his parent's fence that had been knocked from the snow from the city's plow. Mr. Payette stated the fence was grand-fathered in. The property address where the damage occurred is 401 Sterling St. A brief discussion took place. Stelmaszek will investigate the issue.

**Moved to the 6:45pm hearing

Communications: MML Convention in October – Stelmaszek requested approval for any council member and the city manager to attend the MML Convention. Stelmaszek noted that anyone planning on attending make reservations right away.

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Baldinelli to approve any council member and city manager to attend the MML Convention in October.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Manager's Report:

1. Payne & Dolan – Due to conditions of the contract Payne & Dolan will start the heights project early spring 2024.

2. Centennial Event Update – The Centennial Committee sold about 8,000 tickets. They anticipated there were about 8,000 attendees on Friday night and around 6,000 on Saturday night.

3. The County Board of Commissioners approved our funding request for an additional \$5,232.75 bringing us within \$12 of our approved amount of \$100,000. We were able to use complete invoices from infrastructure expenditures and saved the most from our Major Streets fund.

4. Training for Tanya – Tanya is requesting to go to a one-day training in Marquette on August 9th for Human Resource continual education training. The only cost will be transportation and lunch. Stelmaszek requests authorization for Tanya to attend the training.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Dixon-Miller to attend the HR training in Marquette.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

5. Removal of Horseshoe Pits at Lodal Park - I authorized the removal of the Horseshoe pits at Lodal Park. The space was needed for our Centennial event. No Groups or individuals have used them for many years but they can be put back in the future if the need exists.
6. Cease-and-Desist – A cease-and-desist letter was sent to the residents and their contractor at 486 Riverhills Rd regarding their mostly built garage that was constructed too close to the road in violation of the approved site plan (see attached letter). There has been no further construction of the garage since I sent the letter. The contractor submitted a variance request.
7. Tentative Scoring for our Ford Addition/Heights Project - Our point score is 85 (see attached scoring sheet). It is believed we have met the cutoff point to receive funding. Because of the high emphasis our project has on replacing lead access lines, we believe we are in good shape in not being eliminated in tie scoring to meet project funding limits
8. MDNR Deer Control Permits – The application from the MDNR for Deer Control Permits for this fall has been received. Last year we applied for up to 65 permits. 12 were harvested in 2022, 11 in 2021, 17 in 2020 and 11 in 2019. Stelmaszek asked how many permits, if any, the council would like to secure. A brief discussion took place.

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Dixon-Miller to apply for 65 permits.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the manager's report.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Old Business

- A. Bid Opening for East Breitung Ave Watermain/Access Line and Road Reconstruction Project – Stelmaszek opened the bids. Freeman mentioned that bids going forward should require a bid cover sheet containing the bid amount and Stelmaszek agreed.
 1. Barley - \$1,322,422.35
 2. FA Industrial Services - \$1,064,111.90
 3. Payne & Dolan - \$1,627,172.50
 4. BACCO - \$1,218,057.25

Motion by Dixon-Miller; **second** by Freeman to approve the lowest bid that meets specifications.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

- B. Request for Joshua McCole to Purchase Lot #112 and #124 on Evergreen Court – Consistent with the city's "Purchase & Development" agreement with Joshua McCole, he has started construction on the first duplex on the lot he purchased from the city and has requested to purchase the next two lots (#112 and #124 on Evergreen Court) to continue developing these properties. The city set a price of \$9,000 for each of these lots. Stelmaszek requests approval to work with the city attorney using established provisions and terms and transfer ownership of city lots #112 and #124 to McCole & Company, LLC for the price of \$9,000 per lot.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Dixon-Miller to allow the city manager and city attorney to transfer ownership of city lots #112 & 124 to McCole & Company, LLC for the price of \$9,000 per lot.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

- C. Metro Act Permit Extension – The METRO Act was passed in 2002. Its purpose was to assist telecommunication providers to cut through the red tape and obtain permits without having to pay excessive fees or endure unnecessary delays. The process is now overseen by the METRO Authority. The City of Kingsford took in \$28,875 in our last fiscal year in METRO Act funding that went directly into our Major Streets (202) Fund. The City Attorney has reviewed the extension and original permit and has no legal concerns with this extension. Stelmaszek requests approval to sign the extension on behalf of the city.

Motion by Flaminio; **second** by Baldinelli to approve Stelmaszek signing the METRO Act extension.

Roll Call: Yes – Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Freeman, Baldinelli & Flaminio

No – None.

New Business

- A. Resolution #2023/8/7.1 in Appreciation of Anthony Edlebeck's Dutiful Service for our City – Stelmaszek apologized that this had not been completed earlier when Anthony Edlebeck retired but was happy to include his involvement in the Centennial event to the resolution along with all the previous commitments he has made to the city. Groeneveld mentioned Edlebeck's unwavering and continued support of the city even following his retirement reiterating that it was much deserved. A brief discussion took place.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Flaminio to adopt Resolution #2023/8/7.1.

Roll Call: Yes – Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Freeman, Baldinelli, Flaminio

No – None.

- B. Request to Bring the Farm Animal in Platted Areas Issue to the Planning Commission – Residential areas in cities do not normally allow for enough space to have farm animals, and therefore farm animals are often disallowed entirely in cities. Kingsford's ordinance states you must have a certain amount of space to have certain farm animals; this provision is normally adequate to address this issue. However, there is now a growing concern about a residence with additional lots within a platted residential area of Kingsford that is large enough to comply with our current ordinances, and they have many different types of farm animals. The smells and noises are disturbing to the residential areas all around this residence. There are also concerns about sanitary issues that exist in this situation and the potential for the devaluation of property values. One idea to address this issue is to add wording to our current ordinance that would further regulate

farm animals in platted residential areas of the city. To address this issue and ensure this type of problem does not occur in other areas of the city, Stelmaszek requests to work with the city attorney to create a modified ordinance to bring to planning commission for their review and recommendations.

Motion by Flaminio; **second** by Baldinelli to refer it to the planning commission.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

- C. Variance Request for Mostly Constructed Garage at 486 Riverhills R – A request for a public hearing for a variance.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Flaminio to set up a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:45pm.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

- D. To address Fleet Issues, Request to Lease a Squad Car for Public Safety – Stelmaszek went over the request to lease a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe due to high miles and the condition of the fleet.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Freeman to approve the leasing of the 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

**** Hearings:**

- A. 6:45pm Hearing for Ordinance #297 – Stelmaszek went over the ordinance and questions that arose at the previous council meeting. Stelmaszek brought in fireworks that were purchased in Iron Mountain to show the fireworks that are currently allowed mentioning that they have gotten bigger over the years. A lengthy discussion took place with residents attending the meeting also voicing their opinions. Concerns came up regarding the holidays in which fireworks can be used with some stating the ordinance proposed was too restrictive.

Motion by Baldinelli to approve ordinance #297; **No Second. Motion died.**

Motion Flaminio by **Second** by Freeman to table the issue with Ordinance #297 until the August 21st meeting.

Vote: 4 Ayes, 1 Nay – Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Councilmember's Privilege: Freeman thanked Public Safety, Public Works, City Hall Employees and Committee Members for all the work they did to make the Centennial event successful. Dixon-Miller and Flaminio agreed with the sentiment. Baldinelli personally thanked Public Safety, Public Works including the Summer Helpers, Mick Flaminio, John Jessen, Tony Edlebeck & Joe Groeneveld for their help with the Centennial. Groeneveld thanked everyone involved and said he is glad to be a Kingsford resident and the opportunity to be Mayor this year.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Freeman **second** by Dixon-Miller to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Mayor, Joseph Groeneveld

City Manager, Michael Stelmaszek