

City of Kingsford
Regular Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, October 2nd, 2023

A regular meeting of the Kingsford City Council was held on Monday, October 2nd, 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, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Maggie Lanthier [Daily News], Melissa Doucette, Nicole Dorman, Ryan Morgan, Jeff Bal, Steve Conery, Kari Carlson, Kenneth Wood, Roger Scott, Tanya Hiltonen, Jennifer Castro, John Koehler

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of the Minutes:

A. Regular Council Meeting of September 18th, 2023

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Dixon-Miller to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting on September 18th, 2023 as presented.

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 Flaminio; **second** by Baldinelli to approve the invoices from 9/18/2023 thru 10/2/2023 in the amount of \$174,828.77

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

A. Public Works Report – September 2023

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Baldinelli to receive and place on file the consent agenda.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Communications:

A. Letter from our State Representative (110th District) Greg Markkanen

B. Email from Michael Martin (U. S. Department of Transportation) Regarding Local Air Service.

Motion by Baldinelli; **second** by Freeman to recommend SkyWest Airlines as the preferred airline to receive contract at Ford Airport.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Motion by Dixon-Miller; **second** by Freeman to receive and place on file the communications.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Manager's Report:

1. First Down Tree Service's bid of \$1,645 for stump grinding was the lowest bid that met specifications. They are awarded the bid.
2. The State Treasury Department has released their projected revenue sharing for 2024 (see attachment). Kingsford is projected to be at \$722,622. This would be a 2.6% increase from the prior year.
3. The request from the Lagina Brothers for their gift of \$100,000 was to use the funds to finish current renovations at Ford Park, construct a gazebo with a plaque to honor their parents, and to use the balance on additional playground equipment. Originally, we were going to use ARPA funds to renovate Ford Park but because we have this monetary donation the ARPA funds can be reallocated to other park renovations. The amount is approximately \$45,000. The pocket park on Olympic has not received any attention in several years. Much of the equipment is metal and gets hot from the sun in the summer. Citizens in the neighborhood have complained about their children receiving burns and are uncomfortable when using this old and outdated playground equipment. The city can now use this ARPA money, and if needed, use some additional funds from the parks budget to replace the playground equipment at the pocket park on Olympic St.

4. When I requested to bid out the asphalt for the surface of the new Salt Shed, I also requested to bid out the asphalt for the Tennis Court at Ford Park. After a review of the process to add basketball courts on the north side of the tennis court, it was determined that the polls for the hoops and the polls to separate the parking area from the basketball area are needed to be installed before the surface could be covered with asphalt. Stelmaszek apologized for the time it has taken to bring the project to fruition. With the centennial event now behind us we will work to apply the asphalt and finish all other modifications to Ford Park by the end of the fiscal year.

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

Vote: Unanimous; Motion carried.

**** 6:45pm Public Hearing**

- A. Hearing for Ordinance #298 Regarding Farm Animals in Residential Areas – Stelmaszek went over the ordinance. A change in the wording on the ordinance was made. A lengthy discussion took place regarding rabbits and animals allowed.

Motion by Flaminio; **second** by Baldinelli to adopt the ordinance #298 as amended.

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

No – None.

Old Business

- A. Bid Opening for Surfacing or Salt Shed Site-
 1. Payne & Dolan - \$68,925.00
 2. Midwest Asphalt - \$27,566.50

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Dixon-Miller to accept the bid from Midwest Asphalt provided it meets specifications.

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

New Business

- A. GEI Engineering Agreement for Ford Addition/Heights Watermain/Access Line Project – GEI submitted an agreement for services which proposes an itemized cost of \$980,528 for their services for this project. The amount is approximately 7.3% of the overall project costs. This percentage is consistent with their agreement for the Heights project and is below industry norm for these types of engineering services. Stelmaszek requests approval to sign the agreement on behalf of the city.

Motion by Dixon-Miller; **second** by Flaminio to give Stelmaszek approval to sign the agreement on behalf of the city.

Vote: Unanimous; Motion carried.

- B. Northern Michigan Public Service Academy (NMPSA) Renewal Request – Stelmaszek went over the NMPSA membership saying that city employees have attended their offered trainings multiple times. Baldinelli mentioned that even council members have attended some trainings.

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Baldinelli to approve paying the NMPSA membership dues for 2024

Vote: Unanimous; Motion carried.

- C. Centennial Committee Financial Issue – Stelmaszek stated that it was his hope that the city can contribute to the solution of the problem our Centennial Committee finds itself in now that the centennial celebration is over and additional funds are needed to pay outstanding costs from the event. Stelmaszek passed out the final number of the books and suggested that the city pay for the books. Flaminio prepared a memo himself to give his thoughts explaining how the city contacted John Jessen and asking him for his help to organize the centennial event. He described all the planning and work that took place to raise the funds to hold the event. He brought up that the committee did not ask to be paid \$75,000 they asked for a loan so they could pay upfront costs. Flaminio's recommended buying the books, forgiving the loan, and letting the volunteers get back to their lives. Groeneveld asked to have a discussion. Dixon-Miller questioned forgiving the \$75,000.00 loan. Dixon-Miller went over each of the outstanding bills that were listed on a report from the treasurer. A brief discussion took place between Flaminio & Dixon Miller. Dixon-Miller proposed a compromise for the city to forgive the first \$25,000.00 loan and the committee to give the city the remainder of the books to sell. Groeneveld asked Freeman his thoughts. Freeman asked the City Attorney if he would advise the council to buy the books and the attorney did not advise buying the books but stated if the city could prove "public purpose" the city could buy the books. Bruce went on to clarify the statute regarding how much the city could give the centennial committee legally. Freeman went on to explain his disappointment that previous meetings he could not attend got so heated between council members and that the recording did not take place. He went over the events he had been involved in over the years

and the need to be fiscally conservative and the steps that need to be put in place to avoid this happening in the future. Groeneveld asked if anyone wanted to approach the council. Steve Conery approached the council stating that it was not a committee event, it was a city event and the city should pay the outstanding bills. Melissa Doucette approached the council stating the event helped numerous businesses in the area by bringing people from around the country to Kingsford. Tanya Hiltonen approached the council stating she is conflicted due to her being a committee member, a city employee, and a tax payer of Kingsford and asked the council to consider the uncomfortable position the committee is in when making their decision. Groeneveld stated that this was not a centennial committee event, this was a City of Kingsford event. He brought up the discussions that took place two years prior where council all agreed that they wanted the event to be bigger and better than the diamond jubilee but needed a committee to pull it off. He stated for that reason, the city should be responsible for the bills, not the committee. Freeman acknowledged that he did not know the centennial committee was formed due to a request from the council and agreed, because of this, the city should be responsible for some of the bills. A brief discussion took place. Freeman proposed paying the bills towards Binks Coca Cola, Krist Oil, WLUC, UPS, Radio Results Network, Kiwanis, Guide Star, Etix and John Jessen in the amount of \$41,476.28. He suggested more discussions take place in the future to address outstanding payment towards two council members.

Motion by Freeman; **second** by Dixon-Miller to approve paying off outstanding invoices for Binks Coca Cola, Krist Oil, WLUC, UPS, Radio Results Network, Kiwanis, Guide Star, Etix & John Jesson for the total amount of \$41,476.28

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

No – None.

Abstained – Baldinelli

Public Comment: Tanya Hiltonen approached the council and thanked the council for allowing the city to pay the outstanding bills. Holly Palmer also thanked the council mentioning that they were in an uncomfortable position being city employees.

Councilmember's Privilege: Freeman, Dixon-Miller & Flaminio did not have a comment. Baldinelli thanked the committee for taking care of this issue. He mentioned the committee worked very hard and that things may have changed the outcome but that it was hindsight. Groeneveld thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the council for listening to each other and coming up with a solution.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Freeman **second** by Dixon-Miller to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.

Mayor, Joseph Groeneveld

City Manager, Michael Stelmaszek

*signed minutes on file at Kingsford City Hall