

November 16, 2009

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 Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the council room in City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Baldwin, Flaminio, Miller, and Novara.  
Absent: Councilmember Sjoquist.

Also present were City Manager Darryl Wickman, Public Safety Lieutenant Tim Gussert, Public Works Superintendent Anthony Edlebeck, Dennis Baldinelli, Sam Whitens, Richard Anderson, and Jim Anderson.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Baldwin to approve the agenda as presented.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- Minutes of the regular council meeting held November 2, 2009
- Bills Payable from November 2, 2009 through November 16, 2009
- October 2009 Public Safety Department Report
- Treasurer's Quarterly Report
- Letter from Melissa Maki
- CUPPAD Regional Commission Annual Activities Report
- United States Postal Service letter from Postmaster Tom Selin
- Charter Communications letter dated October 29, 2009

A motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Miller to approve the consent agenda.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There were no public comments.

A copy of all communications are affixed to and made a part of the permanent record.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin and supported by Mayor Flaminio to receive and place on file the letter from Dennis Baldinelli stating he is resigning from the Kingsford Planning Commission.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The letter from CUPPAD Regional Commission regarding notice of EDA project submittals was read. The city manager stated he has one (1) idea for a project – that being the planned road between Evergreen Court and Westwood Avenue south of Bianco's facilities. The city has some engineering information on that so an application could be put together quite rapidly. The council members were encouraged to provide any ideas they might have for an EDA project to submit.

A motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Baldwin to receive the CUPPAD Regional Commission letter and place it on file.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The city manager gave his report informing the council that Paul Schultz has been appointed to fill the unexpired term on the Kingsford Housing Commission left by Phil Mashak and his term will expire in March 2010.

The manager stated that the Citizens Advisory/Parks and Recreation Committee met November 9, 2009 and discussed a variety of issues, primarily related to parks. Of importance is the fact that our 5-year Recreation Plan for the city will be expiring in December 2009. In order to apply for state grant funding for park projects, the city must have on file with the State an approved current 5-year Recreation Plan. The committee is planning to draft a new 5-year plan for approval by the council during the first few months of 2010. The committee also again discussed the possibility of a lease agreement with Kingsford High School for the use of Kingsford Commemorative Field. No opposition was expressed by any of the committee members.

The manager reminded those present that the City Hall and Public Works Department will be closed for Thanksgiving and the day after, November 26 and 27, 2009.

Updates were given on the Revolving Loan Fund, Revenue Sharing, Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Actuarial Report, the upcoming annual council reorganizational meeting, and the 2009 local election was conducted without any problems.

A motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Miller to authorize the city manager and city attorney to begin the process and draft a lease agreement with Kingsford High School for Commemorative Field.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Miller and supported by Councilmember Baldwin to accept the Manager's report and place it on file.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Under old business, the request to vacate a portion of the alley in the 400 block between Grant and Garfield Streets was discussed. The manager stated that in searching the records, there were no recorded easements found; however, he received an e-mail from Dewey Olson of WE Energies that states WE Energies presently has underground facilities located in this alley. To maintain these facilities, WE Energies requires a 10-foot wide utility easement for a distance of 110 feet south of their existing pole number 74-260 along the route of their existing cable and including their existing padmounted transformer number 92U11979. The manager stated there is a cost involved in vacating and asked the council for direction. He also stated that if the council decides to begin the process of vacating the alley, the city attorney recommends that the city maintain an easement in that alley due to the current circumstances in that area.

Councilmember Novara feels the expense for the legal steps would be inappropriate since the city intends to retain a utility easement and has no plans to build an alley. Mayor Flaminio agreed and said there would be no gain for the property owners by going through the process.

A motion was made by Mayor Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Novara to notify the residents who requested the city to vacate the alley between 408 Grant Street and 409 Garfield Street and 2001 and 2021 Emmett Avenue that it would not be in the best interest of the city nor the residents to vacate this alley.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no new business, hearings, or public comments.

Under council member's privilege, Councilmember Baldwin stated he would like to see the city stay on top of the revenue sharing cuts and continue dialogue with Senator Prusi. Councilmember Baldwin also expressed appreciation to residents, fellow council members and city staff for his council term. He offered his best to the incoming council members.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin and supported by Councilmember Miller to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.