

July 20, 2020

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, July 20, 2020 at 6:30pm in the council room in City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Baldinelli, Flaminio, Groeneveld, Remer and Dixon-Miller  
Absent: none

City staff also present were City Manager Anthony Edlebeck, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Works Superintendent Jeff DeMuri, Public Safety Lt. Tom Bolda, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], John Koehler [Frog Country 101.5] and Floyd Lindholm.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Remer to approve the July 6, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes as presented.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the agenda as presented.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the invoices for July 7, 2020 through July 20, 2020 in the amount of \$255,670.36.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Safety Report
- June Treasurer's Report

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

There was no Public Comment.

The first item under Communications was a letter dated July 20, 2020 from Anthony D. Edlebeck, City Manager, notifying the City Council of his intent to retire on January 8, 2021. This will conclude 34 years of serving the City of Kingsford. He expressed his gratitude and is happy to assist his replacement for a smooth transition.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the letter from Anthony D. Edlebeck dated July 20, 2020.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The last item under Communications was the Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance Membership Renewal. This will be the City's 4<sup>th</sup> renewal with this organization. Included with the renewal notice was a letter addressed to the City of Kingsford, the DAEDA's 2019 Annual Report and the 2020 January – May Report. It was the City Manager's recommendation to continue working with the DAEDA and to approve a minimum one-year renewal.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to renew the Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance Membership for one-year in the amount of \$5,000.00.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

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

The Manager's Report was presented by Edlebeck.

- COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update – the number of positive cases in the area has risen since July 1<sup>st</sup> and continue to rise. The County group is once again meeting once per week to discuss status changes. Social distancing and precautions of mask wearing in groups and in all open public buildings is required, along with disinfection and regular hand washing and sanitizing remain in effect. The city parks have been open since June 10<sup>th</sup>, and signs are posted on restrooms and pavilions reminding users of social distancing guidelines and notifying them that equipment, picnic tables and restrooms are not disinfected. Park users are reminded to adhere to group size limits and social distancing practices as they are updated. The City Hall, Public Works and Public Safety Facilities will remain closed to the general public except for required appointments. It is encouraged that all appointments, correspondence and information be done remotely or by other means as it has been the previous 4 months. Reminder a new and larger drop box has been installed at the east entrance of City Hall to accommodate tax bills and absentee voter ballots.

Envelopes will also be made available for customer convenience. Restrictions will be relaxed as time progresses. Public meetings will be held in the City Hall while maintaining social distancing and group limits. Surgical masks will be made available. The August 4<sup>th</sup> election is coming up soon. It is anticipated that most ballots will be made via absentee, and modifications may be necessary for in-person voting at the polling locations.

- A memo and additional information were provided to the councilmembers pertaining to the CARES Act funding and applications that have been submitted on behalf of the City, so far.
- The Annual Michigan Municipal League Convention that had been planned to be held on Mackinaw Island September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be held as a Virtual Convention Event. There will be no cost associated with attending this event. Edlebeck will provide information as it becomes available or anyone interested may visit [www.mml.org](http://www.mml.org).
- The Safe Routes to School Project continues. Most of the concrete work will be completed by the end of this coming week. Restoration work is being completed and the project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of July.
- The Iron Mountain-Kingsford Waste Water Treatment Plant project is nearly complete. There were some delays due to the Covid-19 situation. A tour of the reconditioned plant will be scheduled in the near future.
- Reminder that the July Board of Review is scheduled for tomorrow [Tuesday, July 21, 2020] at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers. A quorum of the City Council is required.
- Two special meetings of the City Council are scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:30pm and Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 6:00pm to interview candidates for the city manager position.
- Included with the packet was a list of surplus supplies and park equipment that Supt. DeMuri requests be sold through the Wisconsin Auction Site and is requesting authorization to move forward with posting the items for sale.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to authorize Supt. DeMuri to advertise the list of items on the Wisconsin Auction Site as requested.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

At this time, the public hearing scheduled for 6:45pm began to address the recommended rezoning of 13 residential lots on Evergreen Court from R1A Single-Family to R2 Two-Family. A map was displayed on the bulletin board showing the area being addressed. There has been interest from developers to construct duplexes on several of these lots. A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission and after their review, it is the Planning Commission's recommendation to the City Council that the rezoning be approved as requested [from R1A to R2]. A copy of the public hearing advertisement [which was published on July 3, 2020] was given to the councilmembers. Edlebeck received one inquiry from a resident on Evergreen Court, simply asking about property lines; the individual had no objections. Edlebeck also provided an email correspondence he received from Jessica Frost, President & CEO of Lake Shore Systems, supporting the zoning change.

The Mayor asked three times if there was any public comment; there was none.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the rezoning of the 13 residential lots on Evergreen Court from R1A Single-Family to R2 Two-Family and to introduce Ordinance No. 289.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Councilmember Flaminio, Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Remer and Baldinelli  
Nays: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

The public hearing was included.

Edlebeck continued with the Manager's Report.

- Included with the packet was information for a Women's Administrative Leadership Program being offered by the Michigan Municipal League. The cost is free, except for transportation, meals and lodging for any of the sessions held in Lansing. There are staff members interested in attending, and the application deadline is July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to authorize any female staff members or councilmembers to attend the MML Women's Administrative Leadership Program, including the costs for travel, meals and lodging if necessary.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- o There will be Covid-19 testing available to the public at the Kingsford High School parking lot on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm. Testing will also be offered at the Crystal Falls High School on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 10am to 4pm. Testing at both sites will be free of charge to the public.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the July 20, 2020 Manager's Report.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The only item under Old Business was the bid opening for 2020 Paving. This paving project will be to mill and resurface Pyle Drive from Westwood Avenue to Evergreen Court. The two bids were as follows:

1. Payne & Dolan, Inc. – Gladstone, MI – \$116,780.00
2. Bacco Construction Company – Iron Mountain, MI – \$113,630.00

The City Manager recommended awarding the project to the low bidder who meets specifications and to proceed promptly in efforts to complete the paving prior to the start of the school year. There is a stipulation that if the paving cannot be completed prior to August 24<sup>th</sup> that the contractor has agreed to do the work on weekends to avoid any school interruptions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to award the 2020 paving project to the low bidder, Bacco Construction in the amount of \$113,630 provided all specifications are met.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The first item under New Business was an Intergovernmental Agreement for County Designated Assessor. Pursuant to Public Act 660 of 2018, every county in the State of Michigan is required to have an assessor that meets certain requirements and is committed for 5 years to oversee any assessing within the county that is not being serviced by a local assessor. Patti Roell, of Channing, MI, is the only individual interested in the position, which is on an as-needed basis and will not be full-time. Edlebeck's recommendation would be to approve the agreement and to authorize the City Manager to sign the documents on behalf of the City of Kingsford.

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the agreement and to authorize the City Manager to sign the documents on the City's behalf.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The second item under New Business was an application for PA 210 Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for 900 W. Breitung Avenue. This application is for the 4.44 acres where Venue 906 is located and is owned by RR Downtown, LLC [Brad Staedt]. In order to be considered for tax abatement under PA 210, the City Council would need to hold a public hearing and notify all taxing agencies that receive ad valorem taxes prior to approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to schedule a public hearing for August 17, 2020 at 6:45pm to address the application for PA 210 Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for 900 W. Breitung Avenue.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The third item under New Business was a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting Charter Communications request for early termination of merger conditions. When the FCC approved Charter's merger with Time Warner and Bright House in 2016, it included conditions meant to ensure that what was then a relatively new online video marketplace could grow and become more competitive. Due to the thriving online video marketplace (i.e. Peacock, Hulu and Netflix), Charter is requesting the conditions of the original agreement expire after 5 years, instead of 7 years. A draft letter was submitted for the City Council's consideration. If agreed upon, the City Manager would need approval to sign the letter on the City's behalf.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to support Charter Communication's filing with the FCC for its contract to expire after 5 years and to authorize the City Manager to sign the letter on the City's behalf.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The final item under New Business was the MML Worker's Compensation Fund Board Trustees Ballot. Included was a memo from the Members of the MML Workers' Compensation Fund along with the ballot showing two Trustees seeking election. A brief biographical sketch of each candidate was provided for review.

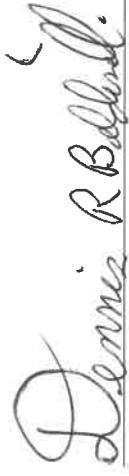
A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to vote for the two candidates listed.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Councilmember's Privilege, Councilmember Flaminio thanked Tony Edlebeck, congratulated him on his upcoming retirement, and said it wouldn't bother him if Tony decided to stay. He was also pleased with the topsoil replacement done along Woodward Avenue. Councilmember Groeneveld asked Director Metras how the

Public Safety Department is handling the day-to-day operations. Groeneveld continued to express his gratitude to Tony for his many years of service. That being said, Groeneveld would like to see someone hired soon to allow for ample time to work beside Tony before he retires. Councilmember Baldinelli would like to see signage placed near the bottom of the hill on Garfield Street indicating driveway traffic.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Remer to adjourn the meeting.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk