

November 16, 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, November 16, 2020 at 6:30pm in the council room in City Hall.

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

Also present were City Manager Anthony Edlebeck, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Brian Metras, Treasurer Holly Palmer, Asst City Manager Mike Stelmaszek (via phone) 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 November 2, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes as amended.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the agenda as presented.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Remer to approve the invoices for November 3, 2020 through November 16, 2020 in the amount of \$254,675.80.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Safety Report – October
- Treasurer's Report – October

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to receive and place on file the consent agenda.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no Public Comment.

The only item under Communications was a Notice from LARA re: Class C & SDM License Transfer Application to 900 W. Breitung Avenue. Staedt Enterprises, Inc. has requested a transfer of ownership for a Class C & SDM licensed business with Sunday Sales Permit, Dance Permit, Living Quarters Permit and Specific Purpose Permit. This letter serves as notice that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission has referred the application to the Enforcement Division for investigation of the request. Edlebeck pointed out a statement within the letter that since this request is a transfer under MCL 436.1529(1), approval of the local government is not required.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the LARA Notice of Class & SDM License Transfer Application to 900 W. Breitung Avenue.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The Manager's Report was presented by Edlebeck.

- The 2020 Fall Archery Hunt started October 1st and runs through January 1st. Currently, 6 people have registered, with 13 deer taken. Harvest updates will be provided at the council meetings.
- The 2020 Presidential Election in the City went very well. The staff and election workers did a fantastic job during the long day; in addition to the unprecedented coronavirus situation. As expected, the voters were very patient and respectful, even though the wait at times was long. We had a total of 4,413 voters (2,921 in person and 1,492 absentee). This compares to 4,071 total voters (3,518 in person and 553 absentee) in the 2016 Presidential election. It should be noted that there have been dramatic changes in the election laws adding more work and responsibility to municipal clerks and in our case deputy clerk, as you can see in the 270% increase in absentee voters along with voters being able to register until the close of the polls. Tanya Hiltonen did a superb job of adjusting and meeting this challenge. Adjustments for the future will be discussed and recommendations will be forthcoming.
- The recent Michigan Supreme Court action to nullify the Governor's Executive Order after April 30th included turning off water service to residential customers for nonpayment, except in an emergency. The City historically does not turn water customers off during the winter months due to heating systems and the potential for unnecessary damage and repairs to service lines. It is our intent to continue not turning off water services throughout the winter except for those properties that are not occupied or for emergencies. This will be reviewed again in the spring.

- o The Kingsford Public Safety Department now has use of a 60-foot by 60-foot fenced impound yard that was installed at the Public Works location. The fencing was provided to the City by WE Energies a number of years ago following the temporary generator project at the Armory substation on Nelson Drive. The cost of the project was \$2,500 for labor and concrete only.
- o The City Council has traditionally approved \$25.00 gift certificates to be provided to each regular employee at Christmas time to spend toward the purchase of a ham or turkey at one of our local grocery stores. Edlebeck asked the councilmembers if they would like to approve this expenditure again this year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to approve the purchase of the holiday gift certificates in the amount of \$25.00 for each regular employee.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

- o The December Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 4:00pm.
- o The City Council reorganizational meeting will be held during the Council Meeting on December 7th. Edlebeck included a list of the current committee appointments in the packet for the councilmembers' review.
- o Also included with the packet was application forms for seats on the Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance (DAEDA) Executive Board. The deadline for applications is December 1st.
- o The City Hall and Public Works Facility will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th in observance of Thanksgiving. Garbage collection regularly collected on Thursday will be collected on Wednesday, November 25th.
- o The first pass of loose-leaf collection has been completed. The second pass in Ford Addition has been completed. The second pass will resume on Wednesday of this week.
- o Seven (7) lots on North Pyle Drive have been surveyed and are available for sale for single-family residential construction.
- o The 2020 Tire Grant program is ongoing. To date, 796 tires have been brought to the transfer station.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the November 16, 2020 Manager's Report.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The first item under Old Business was the Copier/Printer Bid Opening. The two bids were as follows:

1. UP Office Equipment – Marquette, MI – \$3,659.00 - \$400 (trade) = **\$3,259.00 total w/ trade**
2. Office Planning Group – Iron Mountain, MI – \$3,995.00 - \$700 (trade) = **\$3295.00 total w/ trade**

A motion was made by Councilmember Groeneveld and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to award to the low bidder, provided all specifications are met.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The last item under Old Business was the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate to RR Downtown LLC for 900 W. Breitung Avenue under PA 210 of 2005. The State Tax Commission has issued this certificate to RR Downtown LLC for 900 W. Breitung Avenue [Venue 906]. This provides the authority for the assessor to exempt the commercial property [but not the land on which the rehabilitated facility is located or the personal property] from ad valorem taxation. It further provides the authority to levy a specific tax known as the Commercial Rehabilitation tax. This certificate, unless revoked as provided by PA 210 of 2005, as amended, shall remain in force for a period of 10 years [beginning 12/31/2020 and ending 12/30/2030]. The issue date of this certificate is October 20, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate to RR Downtown LLC.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The first item under New Business was the MERS Defined Benefit Plan Assumptions Addendums. Edlebeck read the memo provided to the councilmembers explaining MERS is requiring a formal adoption of an agreement addendum for each of our four (4) Defined Benefit Divisions by the City Council by the end of the year. The four (4) included addendums have been completed based on applicable collective bargaining agreements, MERS resolutions of record and current practices. Each are identical in content, but specific to each division. Each addendum addresses three (3) different eligibility provisions: Service Credit Qualifications, Leave of Absence Provisions and the Definition of Compensation. A request was made to the City Council to approve the addendums and to authorize the City Manager/Clerk to sign the documents on the City's behalf. A discussion took place.

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

The second item under New Business was Resolution No. 2020/11/16.1 re: Delinquent water and sewer bills. This is the semi-annual resolution to authorize the treasurer to place any delinquent water and sewer bills (over 6-month past-due) onto December's property tax statements. Also included with the resolution was a past-due listing broken down by address, which was a much higher amount than previous years. A brief discussion took place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to adopt Resolution No. 2020/11/16.1 Delinquent water and sewer bills.

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

The last item under New Business was Resolution No. 2020/11/16.2 re: Certifying Compliance with PA 152 of 2011. This is an annual resolution required for the health insurance deductible 80/20 split between the City and the employees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to adopt Resolution No. 2020/11/16.2 Certify Compliance with PA 152 of 2011.

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

There were no scheduled Public Hearings.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Councilmember's Privilege, Councilmember Flaminio mentioned the high volume of in-person voting and commended the City Hall staff for their hard work and dedication, especially under the circumstances. Councilmember Groeneveld agreed with Flaminio and also requested people listen to and abide by the recommendations set forth by the health department. Councilmember Remer thanked Tanya for a job well done. Councilmember Baldinelli commended the election workers and mentioned that County Clerk Dolly Cook was able to streamline the process for the Canvass Board. He also said to wear helmets when riding motorcycles, because it could save your life.

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


Mayor


Clerk