

January 4, 2021

Minutes of the regular meeting of the city council of the City of Kingsford, County of Dickinson, and State of Michigan.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the most recent MDHHS Order, the regular meeting of the Kingsford City Council was held electronically via Zoom on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:30pm.

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

Also present via Zoom were City Manager Anthony Edlebeck, Asst City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Brian Metras, Public Works Superintendent Jeff DeMuri, Treasurer Holly Palmer, Deputy Clerk Tanya Hiltonen, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], Kristen Gendron [Arcadis] and Floyd Lindholm.

Note: Since the meeting is held via Zoom, all motions require a roll call vote.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve the December 21, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes as presented.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Remer to approve the agenda as amended. [Addition to New Business – C. Guy Forstrom Recognition and Upcoming Retirement from Breitung Township]

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve the invoices for December 22, 2020 through January 4, 2021 in the amount of \$184,179.58.

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

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Works Report – December

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and place on file the consent agenda.

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

There was no Public Comment.

There were no Communications.

The Manager's Report was presented by Stelmaszek.

- The 2020 Fall Archery Hunt will be completed January 1st. At the time of the packet delivery, 17 deer had been taken. This compares with past history of 11 deer in 2019, 18 deer in 2018, 26 deer in 2017, 43 deer in 2016, 41 deer in 2015 and 53 deer in 2014. The final report will be submitted to the DNR.
- Included with the packet was a copy of the Annual Health Care (OPEB) Report and the annual pension report (form 5572) required by the State. For the MERS Pension, the assumption for investment rate of return used for the 2019 Actuarial was set at 7.35%, down from a previously used 7.75%. This is a more conservative assumption closer to the 6.75% assumption used in the P&F Pension. Despite this more conservative review of our MERS Pension, the funding level is up to 60.7%. Neither Pension is considered underfunded in this year's 5572 report. This report will be posted on the City's website.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Groeneveld to receive and place on file the January 4, 2021 Manager's Report.

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

There was no Old Business.

The first item under New Business was an Application for Front Yard Setback Variance at 504 Wilson Avenue. Ms. Lacey Wodzinski of 504 Wilson Avenue had submitted an application requesting a front yard setback variance to allow construction of a new front porch. The City Manager provided a prior photo along with a current photo showing partial construction. The homeowner was asked to cease and desist construction due to no building permits. A public hearing will need to be scheduled to address this request.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to schedule a public hearing for February 1, 2021 at 6:45pm to address the zoning variance request submitted by Ms. Wodzinski.

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

The second item under New Business was the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit. Due to the recent restrictions pertaining to Covid-19, an exit interview was held virtually by Scott R. Kenney, CPA with City Manager Edlebeck, Asst City Manager Stelmaszek and Treasurer Palmer. The audit report was presented to the City Council. Edlebeck reported it was a clean audit and noted the auditor was pleased with the work done by the City Hall staff in the past few years. Edlebeck recommended the councilmembers receive and place on file the FY 19-20 audit and suggested the auditor provide his customary audit report presentation in the future once public gatherings restrictions are lifted.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit and the auditor be invited to a future meeting to present his audit presentation.

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

The final item under New Business was to recognize Mr. Guy Forstrom for his 43 years of service to Breitung Township and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to send a letter of recognition and congratulation signed by Mayor Groeneveld to Mr. Guy Forstrom for his dedication to Breitung Township.

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

Under Public Comment, Assistant City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, along with the members of the City Council presented City Manager Edlebeck with a gold pocket watch to commemorate his upcoming retirement after 34 years of service to the City of Kingsford.

Edlebeck thanked the city councilmembers, employees and associates for their support over the years. He continued, "As a team, we have made improvements to the water system, storm sewer system, expanded residential and business development and encouraged and supported change and improvement. Much of this was accomplished during the challenges of extreme weather events, like the storms of 1996 & 2014 and the tornado in 2002. The methane issue also brought its own challenges. We met these challenges as a team effort by all involved. Thank you for the opportunity these past 34 years."

Asst. City Manager Stelmaszek, Mayor Groeneveld, Councilmembers Flaminio, Remer, Baldinelli and Dixon-Miller, KPS Director Metras and Kristen Gendron [Arcadis] all expressed their gratitude to Edlebeck for his work ethic, sacrifices and the mentoring he did throughout the years and wished him well.

There was nothing further noted under Councilmember's Privilege.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to adjourn the meeting.

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


Mayor


Clerk