

November 1, 2021

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 1, 2021 at 6:30pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Flaminio, Groeneveld, Dixon-Miller, Remer and Baldinelli
Absent:

Also present were City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Brian Metras, Public Works Supt. DeMuri, Assessor Kyle Mulka, Treasurer Holly Palmer, Administrative Assistant Nicole Stanchina, Deputy Clerk Tanya Hiltonen, KPSD Rick Bottesi, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], Julia Cogger [CUPPAD], Dale Trombly, Doug Cook and Nancy Cook.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve the October 18, 2021 City Council Meeting minutes as presented.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to approve the agenda as amended. [Rearranged the agenda to allow Old New Business A. 2021-2026 Recreation Plan Presentation by Julia Cogger of CUPPAD to be done immediately in order to be compliant with the public hearing requirements addressing the same topic.]
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The first item under Old Business was the 2021-2026 Recreation Plan Presentation by Julia Cogger of CUPPAD. Ms. Cogger provided a packet to the councilmembers, reviewed each section and provided a brief summary for each. The MDNR requires an updated Recreation Plan every five years in order to qualify for grant funds. A Recreation Plan establishes a community vision, goals, objectives and strategies to guide recreation decisions and also synthesizes a library of assessments to be utilized by community officials.

At this time, the public hearing scheduled for 6:45pm began addressing the 2021-2026 Recreation Plan.

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

The public hearing was concluded.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Remer to approve the invoices for October 19, 2021 through November 1, 2021 in the amount of \$186,793.08.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- Public Works Report – October

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

There was no Public Comment at this time.

The only item under Communications was a letter from the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, sent to franchise entities (municipalities), regarding PA 480 of 2006, the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act. As requested in the letter, City Manager Stelmaszek completed the survey, which assists MPSC Staff with gathering information for the annual report for the Governor and Legislature that includes information on the status of video service competition in Michigan. Stelmaszek noted he used the opportunity to express the numerous complaints he has received pertaining to the closure of the local Spectrum office.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to receive and place on file the letter from the State of Michigan – LARA.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The Manager's Report was presented by Stelmaszek.

- The PSO candidate has met with Director Metras and signed all necessary paperwork to proceed with the background check required during the hiring process. Everything is currently on track for him to fill the vacancy at KPSD upon Officer Bottesi's departure.
- Norway Twp has met their limit on Scrap Tire Grant and will not be accepting any more tires at the transfer station.
- RZ Real Estate, LLC has not started construction on the duplex at the intersection of Evergreen Court and Woodward Avenue within a year of their purchase of the city lot as required in the purchase agreement.

Joe Zawada recently contacted the City Manager and asked to sell the property back to the City. He has agreed to pay all costs associated to transfer the property back to the City under the provisions of the agreement we have with him. Our City Attorney is working on the paperwork to facilitate the transaction.

- o Tomorrow is an Election Day. Polls will be open for Kingsford citizens to vote at our two precincts located at City Hall and the DPW facility.

A brief discussion took place regarding the RZ Real Estate topic and the property transfer back to the City of Kingsford.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Remer to receive and place on file the November 1, 2021 Manager's Report.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business resumed with item 2 due to the rearrangement of the agenda.

The second item under Old Business was Resolution No. 2021/11/1.1 to Adopt 2021-2026 City of Kingsford Parks and Recreation Plan. A requirement of the MDNR to ratify the City's Recreation Plan is to read aloud the resolution prior to its adoption. City Manager Stelmaszek read the resolution as requested. Mayor Groeneveld asked if there were any comments or concerns; there were none.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to adopt Resolution 2021/11/1.1 2021-2026 City of Kingsford Parks and Recreation Plan.

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

The third item under Old Business was a Web Site Upgrade Request. Administrative Assistant Stanchina submitted a memo and proposal in the packet. She addressed the councilmembers to review the proposal from CivicPlus and to request support to proceed with the much-needed website upgrade. The proposal provided an extensive list of modules and widgets offered along with definitions of each. Among the numerous benefits offered, CivicPlus/CivicEngage is ADA compliant and mobile responsive. Once approval is given, it will take 4-6 months to go live. The Year 1 price of \$19,500 [which includes the services of implementation and creation, hosting, support, training and annual maintenance] would be due at contract signing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Remer and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to authorize Administrative Assistant Stanchina and City Manager Stelmaszek to proceed with the website upgrade with CivicPlus as proposed.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The fourth item under Old Business was City Hall Outdoor Lighting Bid Opening. There was one bid from Bay Custom Lighting in the amount of \$10,360. Supt. DeMuri has been working with this company for this project and stated the installation would begin prior to Christmas, weather-permitting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to award the project to Bay Custom Lighting in the amount of \$10,360 provided specifications are met.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The last item under Old Business was Audit Services Bid Opening. There was one bid from CLA Auditing in the amount of \$19,500 (year 1), \$20,000 (year 2) and \$20,500 (year 3). There was a provision included in the bid specifications allowing an option for the City to terminate the agreement after year one if City's standards are not met. Treasurer Palmer addressed the council with additional information obtained from a discussion with Mr. Scott Sternhagen, the local auditor from CLA Auditing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to table the audit service bid to allow the City Manager and Treasurer time to review the bid package and return with a recommendation at the next meeting.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The first item under New Business was a Blight & Noise Ordinance Request. A memo was submitted explaining how Kingsford currently does not have ordinances to address blight and noise issues. Zoning Administrator Kyle Mulka addressed the council referencing ordinances of this nature from Iron Mountain and Breitung Township. Mulka requested both issues be addressed at the same time.

Residents in attendance also addressed the councilmembers on the issue. A lengthy discussion took place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to authorize the City Manager, City Assessor/Zoning Administrator and City Attorney to compile and prepare information on blight and noise ordinances and refer the matter to the Planning Commission.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The second item under New Business was the DCHS Sleep Clinic Lease Renewal. The lease agreement between the Cities of Kingsford & Iron Mountain and Dickinson County Healthcare Systems for the property located at 1100 S. Carpenter Avenue expired on January 31, 2021. It had proved difficult to renew the lease agreement due to communication issues with DCHS's attorney. After contacting the DCHS CEO directly, City Manager Stelmaszek was able to secure his signature on the proposed lease renewal. The proposed lease is also being addressed at Iron Mountain's City Council meeting. Stelmaszek requested the City Council's support in ratifying another 10-year lease agreement for the property listed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the 10-year lease renewal between the Cities of Kingsford & Iron Mountain and Dickinson County Healthcare Systems for the property located at 1100 S. Carpenter Avenue.

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

The third item under New Business was Resolution No. 2021/11/1.2 Delinquent Water and Sewer Charges. This pertains to the close-out of water and sewer bills delinquent for a period exceeding six months.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to adopt Resolution No. 2021/11/1.2 Delinquent Water and Sewer Charges.

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

The final item under New Business was Resolution No. 2021/11/1.3 Establishing Guidelines Allowing Richard Bottesi the Ability to Obtain the Same Pension Benefit of Recent, Past and Current Future Retirees. The timing of PSO Bottesi's departure from employment has created a benefits issue that has affected him differently than employees leaving before and after him. These employees have had and will continue to have the opportunity to use their overtime compensation to calculate their Final Average Compensation (FAC) to determine their pension benefit. If given the opportunity Officer Bottesi would like to have this benefit, and has verbally agreed to pay into the pension system the 6% of all past unpaid overtime compensation in order to meet the same standards as other employees who have and will receive this benefit. The payment would be made into the pension fund and would compound for 15 years until he is to receive his pension benefits. Stelmaszek brought this to the Personnel Committee and has their support.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to adopt Resolution No. 2021/11/1.3 Establishing Guidelines Allowing Richard Bottesi the Ability to Obtain the Same Pension Benefit of Recent, Past and Current Future Retirees.

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

Mayor Groeneveld thanked PSO Bottesi for his years of service and wished him well on his future endeavors.

Under Public Comment, Dale Trombly of 520 Mayview Drive addressed the councilmembers to suggest a line item be added to the City Council meeting agenda to highlight the Centennial planning. Mr. Trombly was informed that the Centennial Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month and was invited to attend.

Under Councilmember's Privilege, Councilmember Baldinelli mentioned the Centennial and asked anyone with information or memorabilia to attend the Centennial meetings. Mayor Groeneveld thanked the citizens for attending the meeting to address the blight issues within the City. He expressed the need for the blight & noise ordinances and stated he is confident that the issue will be addressed. He thanked Admin Asst Stanchina for the website upgrade presentation and reminded people to vote in tomorrow's election.

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


Mayor


Clerk