

November 15, 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 15, 2021 at 6:30pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

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

Also present were City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Brian Metras, Treasurer Holly Palmer, Deputy Clerk Tanya Hiltunen, Maggie Lanthier [The Daily News], Floyd Lindholm and Nate Raiche.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to approve the November 1, 2021 City Council Meeting minutes as presented.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dixon-Miller and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli 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 2, 2021 through November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$215,900.90.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

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

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

There was no Public Comment at this time.

There were no Communications.

The Manager's Report was presented by Stelmaszek.

- The 2021 Fall Archery Hunt started October 1st and runs through January 1st. Seven (7) deer have been taken to date. Harvest updates will be provided at the council meetings.
- The closing for the sale of the lot at the intersection of Evergreen Court and Woodward Avenue back to the city took place on November 11th.
- The bid submitted by "Bay Custom Lighting" met specifications, and we are moving forward with the City Hall Lighting project.
- Enclosed with the Manager's Report is some statistical information about the recent election prepared by Deputy Clerk Hiltunen. Of the 481 voters who participated, only 46 were in-person. The remaining 90% of votes cast were done so utilizing the absentee voter option. Installing the Ballot drop box has proven to be beneficial and will be even more important in future elections.
- The December Board of Review (BOR) will be meeting in the Council Chambers at 5:30pm on December 14th, 2021 to correct qualified errors and consider any appeals that may be brought before them.
- Inquiries have been made on the incomplete street patching on Dickinson Avenue, Marquette Avenue and Pyle Drive resulting from City utility repairs. Despite a November 11th deadline to purchase asphalt, Supt. DeMuri was able to secure the contractors, equipment and resources to properly address the issue. All areas listed have been addressed and the street patching is now complete.
- The water tank cleaning has been completed by KLM Engineering, Inc.
- Stelmaszek notified the councilmembers that he will be on vacation during the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

- 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. Stelmaszek 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 Remer 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.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to receive and place on file the November 15, 2021 Manager's Report.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The only item under Old Business was the RFP for Audit Services. Since the last council meeting, the bid from CLA Auditing was reviewed and it was the City Manager's recommendation to accept CLA's proposal to provide auditing services for the next three years.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Dixon-Miller to award the bid for Auditing Services to CLA Auditing as proposed.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Groeneveld asked Stelmaszek to thank Scott Kenny for his many years of auditing service.

The first item under New Business was a Breitung Township Schools Land Swap Request. BTS was interested in purchasing city-owned land near the Superintendent's Office property on Pyle Drive. Since this would result in less potential tax revenue, the City Manager suggested a possible land swap. This would allow the land acquired from the school to be developed for private use, thus remaining on the tax roll. After researching the school's land inventory and meeting with school officials, BTS Superintendent Dave Holmes provided a proposal to exchange the city-owned land they are interested in with two other lots along Pyle Drive. This property could then potentially be sold for residential use. The City Manager felt this proposal had merit and requested the matter be referred to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation. A discussion took place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to refer the BTS Land Swap Request to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The second item under New Business was the Property Sale to former Marquette General Building [Right of First Refusal]. The former Marquette General Hospital property located at 800 East Blvd has been vacant for a few years and is on the verge of being sold to a business which will provide printing services. In the 1991 Right of First Refusal agreement, the City has the right to exercise its right of first refusal prior to the sale of the property. To exercise this right, the City would need to pay the property's current market value. The City does not have a current need for this property and purchasing it would remove the property from the tax roll. The City Manager recommended the City Council approve the waiver the City's right of first refusal and authorize the City Manager to sign the document on behalf of the City of Kingsford. Mr. Nate Raiche [the intended buyer of the property] was in attendance and addressed the councilmembers of his objective. A brief discussion took place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Flaminio to approve the "Waiver of Right of First Refusal" and authorize the City Manager to sign the document on behalf of the City of Kingsford.

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

Mayor Groeneveld thanked Mr. Raiche for choosing Kingsford and wished him the best of luck in his endeavors.

The final item under New Business was Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce Ballot. The annual ballot for the Board of Directors has 5 vacant seats. Each candidate profile was outlined, and the City Council was asked to vote for no more than 5 candidates to fill the vacancies. The votes were as follows:

1. Carmen Thomma-Frank – 5
2. Christine Hanley – 5
3. Jerry Sardina – 5
4. Tanya Hiltonen – 5
5. Louis Steigerwald -4

There were no scheduled public hearings.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Councilmember's Privilege, Councilmember Flaminio thanked Tanya for all her work on the election. Councilmember Baldinelli agreed with Flaminio and also mentioned the Centennial meetings are held the second Tuesdays of the month and everyone is welcome to attend. Mayor Groeneveld thanked Baldinelli and Tanya for their work on the Centennial Committee.

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



Mayor



Clerk