

April 19, 2010

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 Monday, April 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the council room in City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Baldinelli, Flaminio, Miller, Novara, and Pearson.  
Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Darryl Wickman, City Attorney Bruce Brouillette, Public Safety Director Jan Groeneveld, Public Works Superintendent Anthony Edlebeck, Michael Miller, Rudy and Mary Tedeschi, Brian Smeester, Rod Miller, Jim Anderson, Gary Jacobson, Richard Abraham, and Ron Erickson.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Pearson to approve the agenda as presented.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The consent agenda was comprised of the following:

Minutes of the regular council meeting held April 5, 2010  
Bills Payable from April 5, 2010 to April 19, 2010 in the amount of \$176,763.98  
March 2010 Public Safety Department Report

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Miller to approve the consent agenda as presented.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There were no public comments.

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

A letter from the Kingsford High School Athletic Department was read. KHS will again be hosting the Upper Peninsula High School Track Finals on June 5, 2010 with approximately 50 schools participating. Therefore, a request has been made to close the street in the 600 block of Hamilton Avenue, the alley near the Flivver concession stand, and the alley behind the 700 block of Hamilton Avenue on the odd numbered side to allow for an orderly flow of traffic and reduce congestion in the area of Flivver Field. Closure would be between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flaminio and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to receive the letter from the Kingsford High School Athletic Department, place it on file, and authorize the closure of the street in the 600 block of Hamilton Avenue, the alley near the concession stand, and the alley behind the 700 block of Hamilton Avenue on the odd numbered side as stated above.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

The city manager gave his report covering a proposed Early Retirement Incentive Plan submitted by the public safety director, the mutual aid agreement with Iron Mountain, the budget, the deer committee meeting, the Kingsford Commemorative Field Lease Agreement, and the Breitung area storm sewer project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pearson and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to receive the city manager's report and place it on file.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Under Old Business, the request for a zoning determination by Ronald Erickson and Richard Abraham was considered. Each council member received a copy of the April 14, 2010 letter addressed to the city attorney and signed by Mr. Erickson, Mr. Jacobson, and Mr. Abraham. Said letter describes the type of business conducted at the 120 Parkway Street address since the property was purchased by Mr. Erickson in 1979. It also states Mr. Jacobson's intentions for the building.

The city attorney informed the council that a public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals must be scheduled to examine limited criteria set forth in the zoning ordinance because the proposed use will be different than the non-conforming use that was grandfathered in when the ordinance was adopted.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Miller to schedule a public hearing on the zoning request for May 17, 2010 at 6:45 p.m.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Miller to receive and place on file the letter dated April 14, 2010 from Ron Erickson, Gary Jacobson, and Richard Abraham.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Under New Business, Michael Miller, the Vision 2010 Coordinator, gave a presentation on the proposed creation of a Dickinson County Land Bank Authority. He explained that a Land Bank is a legislative term describing the practice of acquiring or transferring land to a governmental authority with the intent of holding it until it is ready for retransfer to private hands. Brownfield and Greenfield Authorities are Land Banks. Residential Land Banks are authorized through MI DELEG by Public Act 258 of 2004.

Land Banks help local governments to revive neighborhoods by reducing their number of tax delinquent and abandoned properties. A Land Bank coordinates with local government in four ways – removes properties that create an eyesore or safety hazard, reduces the influence of speculators on local housing markets, intervenes in property sales with long-term tax foreclosure problems, and returns property back to the tax roll with a stable homeowner.

Mr. Miller said Iron Mountain, Norway, and Breitung Township are in support of the authority as a means to rehabilitate delinquent properties. However, the county itself has yet to embrace the concept, which would require the county, rather than the state, to take ownership of abandoned sites of which there are 20 to 25 properties throughout the county that need attention.

The council asked to be kept informed on the Land Bank issue.

There were no hearings or public comments.

Under Council Member's Privilege, Councilmember Flaminio spoke briefly on the deer committee meeting stating that there are several options available for culling the deer herd.

Mayor Novara stated he has been informed that Samantha Lies, a member of Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award which is the Girl Scouts highest award.

A motion was made by Mayor Novara and supported by Councilmember Baldinelli to adopt Resolution No. 2010/04/19.1 honoring Samantha Lies on receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Baldinelli and supported by Councilmember Pearson to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.  
ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.