

October 14, 2009

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

A special meeting of the Kingsford city council was held Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the council room in City Hall.

Roll Call: Present: Councilmember Baldwin, Flaminio, Miller, Novara, and Sjoquist.  
Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Darryl Wickman, Public Safety Director Jan Groeneveld, Todd Formolo, and Tim Gussert.

The pledge of allegiance was stated.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a request by the administrative employees in the public safety department and any other business that may come before the council at this time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Sjoquist to approve the agenda as presented.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

There were no public comments, communications, or Manager's report.

Under old business, the council listened to the request by public safety administrative personnel regarding retirement benefits.

The director spoke stating that on July 9, 2009 there was a special council meeting where the council voted to rescind the resolution of May 15, 2000 which provided for a three-year FAC for salaried personnel in the public safety department. The public safety administration has asked the council to reconsider and reinstate the May 15, 2000 resolution. He said he does not feel the council intended to reduce the public safety administration pensions. The director and the lieutenants do not receive overtime; therefore these employees would have been encompassed by that resolution. The director feels the wage is the main reason their pension should be figured on the best three out of ten years rather than the last five out of ten years.

Todd Formolo spoke stating he knew when he took the detective position that he would get a reduction in several areas but he said he also knew he would be working straight days which he felt was a bonus. He said Dennis Charette told him his pension would be decreased by going salary. He asked the council to put a good thought process into their decision making on this issue.

Councilmember Miller asked why the employees involved were not at the special meeting held in July. She felt that since the meeting was in regard to the director's dissatisfaction over rescinding the resolution of May 15, 2000, they should have been in attendance. She said the purpose of the meeting was to review this and make it more fair for those involved.

Councilmember Baldwin asked if the city manager met with Bill Burby and Tim Gussert such as was done with Todd Formolo. He asked if the lieutenants were interviewed and told about the wages, benefits, and the pension formula.

The city manager stated that at the time the council approved the overtime hours for the lieutenants, he did not recall that they were covered by this resolution from the year 2000. He said had he known or

remembered at that time, he would have expressed his dislike for the idea of going with the overtime hours.

Councilmember Novara said it was never his nor the council's intention to reduce anyone's pension which in effect is what occurred.

Councilmember Sjoquist stated he does not feel he had a good understanding of this issue. He said he didn't realize the ramifications. He said this is not only a question of what happens today – it affects what happens in the future. He said he regrets his vote on July 9, 2009.

Mayor Flaminio stated he felt the council should have looked more thoroughly at what effect making the suggested changes to the pension would have done. He also noted that the public works employees are helping to pay for their pension increase.

The city manager thanked the officers and the council taking time for a special meeting. He stated that in knowing now what was not known previously, he feels the responsibility exists to reconsider and make corrections. He said if the lieutenants are willing to give up their overtime and the director is willing to give up his 2.6% multiplier, this could be made right by reinstating the resolution of May 2000 and have these matters settled for the foreseeable future.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Novara and supported by Councilmember Sjoquist to rescind the earlier action by the council that occurred on July 9, 2009 to rescind the resolution of May 15, 2000 and to reinstate that resolution and put it back into effect, and to rescind the earlier action that applied to the public safety director that allowed a 2.6% multiplier through the year 31 in order to calculate his pension benefit that would have been created at a max out at 80% at that time and to discontinue the overtime hours for the lieutenants that was approved on December 22, 2008.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilmember Flaminio, Novara, and Sjoquist.

Nays: Councilmember Baldwin and Miller.

Absent: None.

Carried.

There was no new business, hearings, public comment, or council member's privilege.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Miller and supported by Councilmember Baldwin to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

ALL AYES. NO NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.