Kensington City Council Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

Members Present: Jim Schecker, Joe Miles, Brock Green, and Emmy Maheux

Members Absent: John Gran

Guests: Mike Hagen, and Charlotte Norlien

The monthly meeting for the Kensington City Council was held August 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center Council room and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion (Miles/Maheux) to approve the agenda. MCU**

**Motion (Green/Maheux) to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, council meeting. MCU**

**Motion (Maheux/Miles) to approve the bills on the claims list. MCU**

**Motion (Miles/Green) to approve the financial report as presented. MCU**

Norman and Stella Werk spoke to Jennifer regarding an area of their sidewalk in front of their house, that they believe to be sinking. Jennifer provided the council with photos of the sidewalk to review. Based on looking at the sidewalk the council didn’t feel that the sidewalk was sinking. The real issue is that the land elevation and the sidewalk going to the east is higher than the west. When that house was built on that lot and the driveway constructed, it was constructed so that the driveway was much higher than the land elevation and sidewalk and in doing so, the water has no place to run off to and just runs to that spot and sits. The council determined that nothing will be done with this at this time with the current elevations there is no fix without tearing up the whole sidewalk.

The school also reached out regarding the sidewalk in front of the school. The sidewalk has sunk a lot where the sidewalk meets the curb and created a huge tripping hazard. The sidewalk itself is in pretty good shape. Jennifer met with Tri County Foam to see about lifting the sidewalk. Tri county foam said that being there is no gutter on the building the water runs down between the building and the sidewalk and causes it to sink. They can put a product in between the building and the sidewalk to help prevent this in the future and lift the sidewalk up to the level of the curb. The estimate to lift the sidewalk from the corner of Rostedt to the light pole near the tennis court was $ 6,220.00.

**Motion (Maheux/Green) to approve the estimate from Tri County Foam Insulation in the amount of $6,220.00 to lift the sidewalk in front of the school. MCU**

Mike Hagen was present to discuss the splitting of a lot. Mike is purchasing the manufactured home that is owned by the Kensington Covenant Church; however, as part of the purchase the lot needs to be surveyed and spilt off from the parcel of land where the Kensington Covenant Church sits. Before the split can be finalized the county has requested, they seek permission from the city to split that lot.

**Motion (Miles/Maheux) to approve the splitting of the lot owned by Kensington Covenant Church to separate the house from the church parcel. MCU**

The city received correspondence that Mike Dolan will be retiring from Thornton Law Office, Mike is listed as the attorney that represents the City of Kensington. A new contract was sent to be signed to renew the contract without Michael Dolan’s name on it.

**Motion (Green/ Miles) to approve and sign the new contract with Thornton Lawn Office. MCU**

The city received notice that the final certified LGA amounts for 2024 would be in the amount of $77,310.00.

The city will also receive Public Safety Aid from the State in December in the amount of $ 11,684.00. Originally, we thought this was the street aid that we have received a few times in the past; however, it is different from that. These are new funds that will be allocated to cities and are required to be used for Public Safety which includes: community vio­lence prevention and intervention programs, community engagement, mental health crisis responses, victim ser­vices, training programs, first responder wellness, equip­ment related to fire, rescue, and emergency services; or to pay other personnel or equipment costs. Ineligible expenses include employer contribution to the public employee police and fire fund, any expenses with alleged misconduct, purchase of tactical vehicles or tear gas, or the construction or improvements to a police station or related facilities. The council discussed the uses of the money and felt that unless something changed in how the city can spend the money, it would probably be disbursed to the Fire Department.

The scheduled council meeting for September falls on the Labor Day Holiday and will be rescheduled for Monday, September 11 at 7pm.

The State of MN is distributing funds to counties to assist with statewide elections. Allocation to cities will be based on population of registered voters. The City of Kensington will receive $ 17.72 based on the registered voter number from 5-1-2022. These funds must be tracked separately and reported on an annual basis. Douglas County gave the cities from within Douglas County the option to receive their own money directly or give the city portion of our funds to the County. The city discussed the fact that it would cost the city more than we would receive to track and report on the funds, in addition the county provides the city with all the election equipment and does all our absentee voting for us. The City felt that allocating its portion of funds to the county would be the best option at this time and agreed to sign the State of MN Voting Operation, Technology & Election resources (Voter) account County-Municipality Agreement.

**Motion (Miles/Maheux) to approve signing the State of MN Voting Operation, Technology & Election resources (Voter) account County-Municipality Agreement between the City of Kensington and Doulgas County. MCU**

The League of MN Cities had their webinar regarding the new Cannabis Laws on Tuesday, July 25 at 11 am. Jennifer provided a detailed overview to the council. The council reviewed a sample ordinance prohibiting the use of Cannabis in public places and on public property. The council requested additional time to review the sample ordinance and further discussion will be held at September’s meeting.

The city should investigate adopting some zoning ordinances. Jennifer is working on some preliminary information to present to the council.

The League will also be hosting a webinar on the new Paid Family and Medical Leave Law and the Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) on Thursday August 3 at 11 am.

Green Acres Project Update:

The city’s request for congressional-directed spending thru Senator Tina Smiths office and Senator Amy Klobuchar’s office were both denied.

Jennifer reached out to Nutrien and updated them on MNDOTs request to close their main entrance.

MNDOT TED Application discussion meeting to be held online on August 21 at 9am if a council member would like to sit in with Jennifer at the meeting.

**Motion (Green/Maheux) to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. MCU**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7 pm.

Jennifer Kangas, City Clerk