Kensington City Council Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

Members Present: Jim Schecker, John Gran, Joe Miles, and Brock Green

Members Absent: Emmy Maheux

Guests: Casey Knabe, Corey Knabe, Jared Johnson, and Mike Johnson

The monthly meeting for the Kensington City Council was held November 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center Council room and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion (Gran/Green) to approve the agenda. MCU**

**Motion (Green/Miles) to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024, meeting. MCU**

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

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

The Kensington Firemen’s Relief Association Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 6pm at the Kensington Café.

The Kensington City Council and the Board of Canvass reviewed the results of the General Election held Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

The City of Kensington had 186 voters registered as of 7am on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. We had 16 people who registered to vote on election day and a total of 169 people voted.

The following votes we received for the offices of

Mayor 2-Year Term:

 Jim Schecker - 90 votes

 Chad Simpson - 63 votes

Write Ins - 3 Votes (Anybody else, Snoopy, and Randy Petersen)

City Council 2 Members 4-Year Term:

 Mike Hagen - 90 votes

 Tina Anderson - 71 votes

Randy Petersen - 48 votes

Scott Marlow - 48 votes

Emmy Maheux- 28 votes

Write Ins - 0 votes

Farwell-Kensington Sanitary District Board Member Kensington 4-Year Term:

 Randy Nessman 138 Votes

 Write Ins- 1 Votes (Mike Johnson)

For the Office of Mayor, Jim Schecker was declared the winner with 90 votes. For the office of City Council Member, both Mike Hagen with 90 votes and Tina Anderson with 71 votes were declared the winners. For the Farwell Kensington Sanitary District Board Member Randy Nessman with 138 votes was declared the winner.

**Motion (Gran/Green) to approve the declared winners of the November 5, 2024, election as stated above. MCU**

**Motion (Green/Gran) to close out Fire Department Truck Fund CD 6859943 in the amount of $106,236.09 and put the money into the Fire Department money market account until the other truck fund CD comes due in January 2025. Renew CD 6450084 in the amount of $58,355.84 for 12 months at 3.5%. MCU**

There have been a couple reports of the convection oven in the kitchen taking an hour or better to heat up. Discussion was held about a service call and potential replacement, considering at the last service call the technician informed us that they could no longer get replacement parts for it.

Casey Knabe and Corey Knabe were preset to discuss a potential benefit increase for the Kensington Firemen’s Relief Association. The retirement benefit for our department is currently at $750.00 per year and hasn’t increased since 2005. The department membership is proposing a benefit increase to $ 1,200.00. Further research and investigation will have to be done to determine the potential financial consequences to the city before a decision can be made. Jennifer will reach out to other departments to see where their benefit levels are at, if they have an annual contribution and where they invest their money.

**Motion (Gran/Green) to approve the Audit engagement letter from Carlson SV for the 2024 city audit in the amount of $8,100.00. MCU**

**Motion (Gran/Green) to approve resolution 11-2004 authorizing the submittal of small cities application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for the Green Acres Project.**

The West Central Area School District in collaboration with Horizon Public Health got a grant through the Blandin Foundation to do some youth center community mapping in the three school districts of Grant County. This will give youth the chance to create community maps that include ideas on how to strengthen their communities through the youth lens and put them into action. The students will have an opportunity to suggest ideas, work cooperatively with city officials and dedicate $7,000.00 to complete those projects in each community. They would like a couple options for dates to hold a Town hall meeting that will be open to the public to discuss these projects. The council discussed hosting this town hall meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, from 6:00 pm – 7:30pm.

**Motion (Gran/Miles) to approve resolution 11A-2024 to authorize the clerk to assess delinquent animal license to property taxes payable in 2025.**

The council discussed the sale of the fire department’s old tanker truck. The council authorized Jim to sign the title once the truck sells as there has been some interest in the truck. It was discovered that someone cut the battery cables and stole the batteries and stole the gas tank off the pump. The truck has been fixed already as potential buyers were coming to look at the truck. A police report was filed, and a determination will be made if the damage will warrant turning it into insurance.

**Motion (Green/Gran) to approve Jim to sign the title to the tanker truck once it sells. MCU**

Swenson Lervick fee schedule was provided for informational purposes.

Dave Reque did some digging and Johnson Jet Line was called back to televise the remaining portion of the line. Another partial collapse just on the edge of the asphalt prior to the school prevented the camera from going any further. Through the process of elimination and running water into that pipe it was determined that this line was for the sole purpose of draining the front portion of the school roof. Discussion was held with school officials regarding the repair of this line. The school wanted to wait until spring and reassess the situation then and in the meantime let the water run on top of the ground. The 30 feet of completely collapsed pipe has been replaced by the city for now, due to not wanting to create a water issue for the houses down the line from the school and a bill will be sent to the school for half the repair costs.

Douglas County is moving forward with a county wide Cannabis Ordinance that individual cities can adopt if they choose. They are also willing to register cannabis businesses and complete the necessary enforcement that goes along with cannabis for individual cities. The county will still rely on city zoning ordinances when registering cannabis businesses for individual cities. Later the county will require a formal declaration by the city council as to whether or not the city plans to register cannabis businesses or to delegate that responsibility to the county. The City of Kensington will need to establish some basic zoning regulations.

The council has not thoroughly reviewed the draft copy of the revised nuisance ordinance yet and would like additional time to review it. Further discussion will be held at future meetings.

Jim discussed a potential increase in wages for the City Clerk, he spoke with FKSD Chairman Score, and they would like to propose an increase of $1.50 per hour. This increase will help get this position a little closer to what other cities are paying for this position.

**Motion (Green/Gran) to approve a $1.50 per hour increase for the City Clerk position from $22.00 to $23.50 effective January 1, 2025.**

**Motion (Gran/Miles) to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. MCU**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7 pm.

Jennifer Kangas, City Clerk