



“Mayor and Deputy Mayor Resignations Unfortunate, but Warranted”

Ignace, ON April 3, 2023 – Today, Township Council released this brief statement to advise the community and other important stakeholders in the region that the Township of Ignace has formally accepted the resignations of both Mayor Gascon and Councillor Zimmer (Deputy Mayor). At an Emergency Meeting of Council, the three remaining members received the resignations and passed a unanimous resolution to accept those resignations. “It is unfortunate that the Mayor and Councillor have submitted their resignation, mid stream in our Council Term and have set the community backwards by making divisive comments and posting inaccurate information on a variety of social media platforms.”

“Although, these are very unfortunate circumstances, the resignations of both the Mayor and Councillor are warranted and accepted”, stated Councillor Defeo, Councillor Taddeo and Councillor Baigrie. There were some very disappointing actions of, and inaccurate statements made by, former Mayor Gascon which lead to personal attacks on other Council members and Township staff. This included the former Mayor and Councillor moving forward on Township initiatives without the consent or resolution of all of Council. As a result of those issues, and other personnel matters, we have stepped in and taken a stern position to protect and enforce our obligations to our employees and ensure a safe and healthy working environment. Unfortunately, our move to maintain a democratic approach in Ignace has resulted in the resignation of the Mayor and a Council member. Regardless, we are not at liberty at this time to discuss the details of those specific issues based on our Legal Counsel’s advice and for the protection of those individuals involved at the Township office.

We want to thank Mayor Gascon and Deputy Mayor Zimmer for their time on Council and wish them well, in hopes that they will continue their personal drive to assist the community with economic development activities and initiate positive, and constructive dialogue in an open, meaningful, and respectful manner.

There should be no questions in the community that the three remaining Council members are in place to advance Ignace, make positive decisions that contribute to economic development, and ensure we collectively maintain a fiscally stable and sustainable budget that provides first-class services for our ratepayers. We also want to reassure our ratepayers that services at Township Hall will go uninterrupted, during this transition. We thank our dedicated staff for their commitment towards this.

As stated in an earlier release, we have called a closed session of Township Council to determine our next steps and to explore our options moving forward with the leadership of Ignace. This will include receiving training by professionals about the roles and responsibility of Council during this time, determining next steps in governance of the community and initiating the the process to get us back on track. We want to thank all of the community for their patience and support during this transition of leadership.