



Interim Mayor's Update

“Working Together Today to Create a Stronger Tomorrow”

May 25, 2023, Ignace, On. At the onset of this term, during late Fall of 2022, I am certain that no one on our Council could predict that midway through our term, we would be two council seats short, with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor having abruptly resigned. That we would be searching for professional assistance to steer us and provide us with critical advice on how to proceed through these challenges, and that we would be in a position to look at replacing these individuals through a public appointment process. As the new Interim Mayor of Ignace, I felt frustrated, disappointed at times, and even upset with the events that led to these circumstances around the resignations. Nonetheless, as we all can relate to, time moves forward, and we are all challenged with picking up the pieces and making things better for this community. At Council, in the Township of Ignace, we are doing just that!

I felt that as I take this seat as Interim Mayor, that open communication with the residents and ratepayers of this community is an important aspect of leadership, and as such, I will be continuing to update not only our local community, but our most important stakeholders on a regular basis. We are certainly confident that residents who have an interest in our local community and our local government, are seriously considering or have already put forward their name into the process to appoint two new Councillors to this Township Council. We are looking for positive people with honest, dedicated, and meaningful input and ideas that will make a difference on Council and help propel this community to its utmost economic and social prosperity.

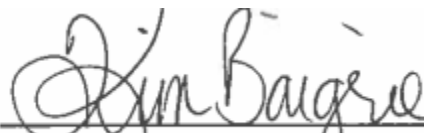
As a Council, we are obviously committed to the well-being of this community. It is the very reason, we commit ourselves, our time, and resources to providing leadership, guidance and governance to the community and its staff. It is the very reason we want this community to be successful and sustainable into the future. But we need everyone's support and we all need to work together today, to create a stronger and more successful tomorrow.

One of the concepts that I wanted our public to understand and grasp, is that we as a Council, depend on our Senior Staff to guide us, ensure that we are complying with the Municipal Act, that we are following due diligence and the rules of municipal leadership.

One such rule is that of open versus closed (in-camera) sessions of Council Meetings. This is obviously not unique to the Township of Ignace. We as a Council are not only obligated to follow the rules of in-camera session but mandated to do so by the Municipal Act. It is not a choice of Council and more than often we question the topic of disclosure and its ability to be in open Council vs. closed. We invite those who may be frustrated by the process to explore those rules within the context of the Municipal Act. That training will be provided and brought forward to the two new Councillors once they are chosen and sworn into Council.

Regardless of the process, the most important and hopefully most resounding message that I wanted to bring across to the residents of Ignace is that we must work closely together today, to build a stronger and more vibrant community for tomorrow. We need to ensure that we are respecting each other as colleagues, friends and concerned citizens of this community that we call home. We must also be cognizant of the fact that we want this community to be stronger, and be seen as inviting, invigorating and inclusive of new citizens and those we want to attract to this gorgeous part of the world. Let us all put aside our differences to build that stronger tomorrow.

Thanks kindly for your support!



Interim Mayor Kim Baigrie

Township of Ignace