

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 15, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, and Clement; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Interim Main Street Manager Perry; Police Chief Knobelsdorf; Eric Proctor

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes stated that a vacancy on the City Council has been created with the resignation of Council Member Butler due to his need to focus on his career. Mayor Barnes further stated his thankfulness for the time Mr. Butler spent on the City Council and for sharing his knowledge and expertise.

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman extended his appreciation to everyone that attended the Cutler Road Ribbon Cutting. It was a very nice event with over 60 individuals in attendance. He further thanked Fleis & VandenBrink and Portland Federal Credit Union for hosting the event. The final walk through and payments on the project still need to be completed.

City Manager Gorman stated that the City is still waiting to hear from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority if the application for funding from The WODA Group for the redevelopment of Old School Manor has been approved.

On June 4th the City's new website went live and has received very positive feedback. The goal is to further take advantage of the websites many capabilities in order to aid City residents.

City Manager Gorman reported that ADM Alliance Nutrition will begin demolition of the silos at Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. on Monday, July 13, 2015. They expect the project to take 3 weeks. Detour routes are being evaluated by the Ionia County Road Commission. All alternatives are being considered in consideration of the substantial impact to traffic. The City is not mandating this demolition but is looking to the safety and impact to the community.

Council Member Clement suggested posting signs ahead of time in order to alert the public to upcoming traffic detour.

Under Presentations, Interim Main Street Manager Perry presented a report on downtown activities. She presented a letter from Governor Snyder recognizing Portland's Main Street accreditation as a 2015 National Main Street Program.

This year's Portland Pay Day event has 16 businesses participating. Over \$400,000 has been kept in the community as a result of this program being held each summer.

The Block Party was held on Saturday, May 16th and included kid's activities, crafters, live music and a BBQ contest. The event was a success and included over 300 volunteer hours of planning and hosting.

Portland Main Street's Economic Revitalization Committee and the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Business After Hours event on Thursday, July 18, 2015 at Fabiano's River House Grill from 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

The "Wine the Walk" event will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 4:00 – 11:00 P.M. on the Boardwalk and will feature craft beer and Michigan made wines. Last year this event brought in over 500 people.

Interim Main Street Manager Perry further stated that hanging baskets are being placed in the downtown and the wrought iron furniture has been inventoried and optimized. There are several new businesses moving into the DDA and Main Street districts including Olivera's, Skin Care, About You/Clippers, and the Red Tomato has expanded. The Main Street website has available business spaces listed.

Eric Proctor presented information on the Beerfest on the Bridge event scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 2:00 – 8:00 P.M. The event will feature live music, over 10 Michigan breweries, and local food vendors.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-44 to adopt a new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy to incorporate new legislation approved during the Michigan Legislature's final session day of 2014 to take effect July 1, 2015. The legislation requires public bodies to establish specific written procedures and guidelines for FOIA requests, including a separate written summary informing the public on how to submit FOIA requests, how to understand the public body's responses to FOIA requests, deposit requirements, fee calculations and avenues for challenging and appealing the public body's denial of a request.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-44 adopting a new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-45 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-45 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-46 to approve the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology to continue the process of migrating the existing water meters to the radio read Orion ME meter system by Badger and replacing all of the non-compatible meter bodies. The AMR system will eliminate the manual entry of water readings at the meter and into the billing system at City Hall and new meters may help pay for themselves because older meters typically maintain their accuracy or slowdown 5-7% as they age. City staff is recommending the purchase of 153 meter bodies and 162 meter registers of various sizes from SLC Meter LLC at a cost of \$42,483.67.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-46 approving the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading technology.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-47 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 that requires electric utilities to charge up to \$0.99 per month on customer bills to raise revenue to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. PA 95 provides that a utility may annually opt out of collecting these funds. A utility that opts out cannot shut off electricity to a residential customer from November 1st to April 15th for nonpayment of a delinquent account. The City of Portland has previously adopted electric shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shut-offs from November 1st to April 15th and opting out of collecting funds for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund would extend protection from shut-offs during the heating season to all residential customers and not raise all customer rates by up to \$0.99 per month.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-47 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-48 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City boards and commissions.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-48 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City boards and commissions.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 1, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$69,121.93 and payroll in the amount of \$187,642.59 for a total of \$256,764.52. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated that 4th of July festivities will be held on Friday, July 3rd with the parade to begin at 8:00 P.M. with the crowing of the king and queen following at Portland High School and fireworks at dusk.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that he was unable to attend the Cutler Road Ribbon Cutting but extended his thanks to everyone involved in bringing the project to fruition. He suggested a traffic study be conducted so the appropriate speed for the road can be determined.

Mayor Barnes concurred that a traffic study should be completed to also determine the amount of traffic on the road.

City Manager Gorman noted that the City's engineers plan to perform a traffic study on Cutler Rd.

Police Chief Knobelsdorf stated that speed has increased on the road and that a speed limit is generally determined by the drivers. There are many factors involved in a proper traffic study.

There was continued discussion.

Mayor Barnes read a letter he received from a couple from Indiana that became stranded in Portland. They expressed their gratitude to the residents of Portland for the many offers of help and displays of concern.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to adjourn the regular meeting.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk