

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 17, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Gerri Ryan; 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 led by Gerri Ryan.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Gerri Ryan addressed her concern to the Council about the lack of warning of the tornado that occurred on June 22, 2015. She stated her feeling that a radar out of Lansing should be used by the City instead of Grand Rapids as she doesn't want to see the same thing occur.

Mayor Barnes stated that he hopes the National Weather Service is doing what they can to improve its radar system as they did not detect the tornado in time to notify the proper individuals to signal the warning through Ionia County Central Dispatch. The National Weather Service is a Federal agency, the City does not pay for this service. He further stated that unfortunately these types of weather events are not always predictable or detectable in time to initiate a warning.

City Manager Gorman stated the City does not have any authority over this issue. He recommended contacting Doug DeVries, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Ionia County as cities under 10,000 in population rely on their emergency plans. They are always looking for ways to improve efforts.

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported the WODA Group has completed the environmental studies of the property at 306 Brush St. and are now waiting for completion of the report. The plans are still in the process of final development. When they are complete they will meet with City staff for discussion and input. They are optimistic they will make their anticipated October start date on the project.

Over the weekend, the Frewen Realty building on Grand River Ave. that was damaged by the tornado was taken down by Martin Excavating. They will also be taking down Janice Courter's building and the building Goodwill occupied.

Olivera's was granted a side setback variance at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2015. They still have parking issues to get past and will be requesting a parking variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals at its September 14, 2015 meeting. They will present their plans to the Planning Commission for site plan review on September 9, 2015.

McDonald's will also be presenting plans for site plan review at the September 9, 2015 Planning Commission meeting. They will also be requesting a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals on September 14, 2015 as they have too much parking according to the City's Ordinance.

City Manager Gorman noted the Planning Commission will be considering new language for parking requirements for restaurants as the standards are very aggressive and make development by this type of business difficult.

City Manager Gorman stated he and Electric Superintendent Hyland met with representatives of Tri-County Electric in regard to their poles along Cutler Rd. They will be undergrounding their electric service in that area and removing the poles. There was also discussion of the possibility of doing the same in other areas.

The Applicant Briefing for Section 19 Disaster Relief Funding was held at City Hall today for municipalities and local governments seeking funding to cover costs attributed to the tornado on June 22, 2015.

An emergency services meeting was also held today at the Emergency Services Building to look at the coordination of efforts as a result of the tornado on June 22, 2015. There was meaningful discussion as to what could have been done differently during this emergency situation. Communication was made difficult due to the lack of cell phone service and therefore needs to be addressed for future situations.

Under Presentations, Interim DDA/Main Street Director Perry gave a report on activities in the Downtown. Portland Pay Day is wrapping up this week with the prize drawing to be held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the band shell in conjunction with Thursdays on the Grand. The top prize is \$1,200.00.

Eric Proctor reported that "Beerfest on the Bridge" was very successful and the most profitable Main Street event held to date. Many of the approximately 500 attendees were from out of town. Plans are to bring it back next summer.

Interim Director Perry stated "Wine the Walk" was held this past Saturday, August 15, 2015 with approximately 220 attendees. The smaller turnout than previous years is attributed to the very hot, humid day. Overall, it was a fun event with great samples and participation.

In business news, the Sunny Bunch Christian Pre School and Nature's Breeze Mattress Company, selling high end mattresses, have both opened on Kent St.

Mayor Barnes stated that Beerfest on the Bridge was a great event in bringing people into the community and into the local businesses.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-63 to approve a Traffic Control Order to establish a new speed limit on Cutler Rd. between Grand River Ave. and Charlotte Hwy. Subsequent to

the recent completion of the Cutler Road Improvement Project a traffic study was conducted to determine a safe and reasonable speed limit.

Police Chief Knobelsdorf explained the case study conducted by the Michigan State Police and how the proposed speed limit of 40 MPH was determined.

There was discussion.

Motion by Clement, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 15-63 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing a new speed limit for Cutler Rd.

Yeas: Clement, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-64 to ratify the purchase of a tractor for the Parks and Cemetery Departments to replace a 1999 John Deere 4300 Tractor, used for multiple purposes, that has outlived its expected life. The purchase of this tractor in the amount of \$17,602.43 was included in the 2015-2016 Budget approved by Council and is part of the State of Michigan's MiDeal contract agreement.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-64 ratifying the purchase of a tractor for the Parks and Cemetery Departments.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-65 to approve the purchase of electrical poles for the Electric Department from Resco for an estimated amount of \$10,809.00. The poles will be used for electrical work to be done outside of the city limits.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-65 approving the purchase of electrical poles for the Electric Department from Resco.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-66 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Doug Logel Sr. to the Tree Management Commission.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-66 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Clement, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-67 to designate the City Treasurer, Kristina Kinde, as the authorized contact for the administration of the State Disaster Contingency Fund. The City of Portland sustained severe losses of major proportions brought about by the tornado on June 22, 2015 resulting in significant damage to residential, commercial and city properties. Portland is a political subdivision

within the State of Michigan with an official Emergency Operations Plan in compliance with Section 19 of the Emergency Management Act. The City Council certifies that the County Emergency Operations Plan was implemented at the onset of the disaster and all applicable disaster relief forces have been exhausted. As a direct result of the disaster, public damage and expenditures were extraordinary and have placed an unreasonably great financial burden on the City of Portland totaling \$165,077.79.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-67 designating the City Treasurer, Kristina Kinde, as the authorized contact for the administration of the State Disaster Contingency Fund.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 3, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$170,637.45 and payroll in the amount of \$90,324.26 for a total of \$260,961.71. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$42,540.59 for Cutler Road engineering services, and Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$6,485.63 for repairs to the heating & cooling system at City Hall due to tornado damage were included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated that the City is still waiting for the Cutler Road Improvement Project to finalize. Engineers with Fleis & VandenBrink are still working through issues with the contractor on the project.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents they need to follow the speed limit in the City; we want to keep everyone safe.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold a movie night at Powers Park at dusk on September 12, 2015. They will be showing Big Hero 6.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga inquired what the next steps are for the property where the silos were taken down.

City Manager Gorman stated they are waiting for the dirt to settle some before they finish cleaning up the lot. They will also be repairing the street painting that was damaged. Discussions as to City possibly taking the property need to be resumed.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked everyone that helped and participated in the Wine the Walk event.

Council Member Clement commented that there are only two more weeks of Thursdays on the Grand.

Council Member Baldyga acknowledged Noreen Logel, the Friends of the Red Mill, and the Timber Framers Guild for the incredible effort in the timber frame pavilion that has been constructed. This is a very significant accomplishment for Portland.

Mayor Barnes thanked the Leik Brothers for being benefactors to the community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk