

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 8, 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; Police Chief Knobelsdorf; Interim DDA/Main Street Director Perry; 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 Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Baldyga.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported the recent bridge inspection report brought no new surprises but shows the continuing deterioration of the Divine Hwy. Bridge. At this time it is still safe for travel with no load restrictions. The City is hoping to receive word in November or December whether it will receive a 95% matching grant for the replacement of this bridge.

The follow-up applicant briefing with representatives of the State of Michigan was held today at City Hall for disaster relief funding for the tornado that occurred on June 22, 2015. The City may receive payment as soon as next week.

The City has received confirmation from MDOT that the funds have been obligated for the Kent St. Improvement Project. Construction is expected to take place in the Spring/Summer of 2016 in order to have impact the residents as minimally as possible. Storm sewers in the area are also being assessed to determine if they should also be replaced during construction.

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 currently working to make the building weather tight so they can begin construction on November 1, 2015.

Goodwill has officially decided to rebuild in Portland. They are currently developing the site plan and building plans. The site plan will be presented to the Planning Commission for review at its October meeting.

Olivera's will also present their site plan for review to the Planning Commission at its October meeting. McDonald's site plan will be presented at tomorrow's Planning Commission meeting. The Zoning Board of Appeals will consider variance requests from both Olivera's and McDonald's at its meeting on September 14, 2015.

City Manager Gorman further reported that TRW has changed their name to THK Rhythm Automotive. Plant Manager, Scott Inman will address the Council at its meeting on September 21st in order to update the community on their recent changes.

City Manager Gorman stated that he is in the process of researching and discussing property maintenance enforcement. At this time he is looking at budgetary aspects and how other communities address this issue.

The Zoning Moratorium passed after the tornado on June 22, 2015 will expire on October 6, 2015. City Manager Gorman stated that he will request that Council extend the moratorium another 90 days at either the September 21, 2015 or October 5, 2015 meeting.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-68 to approve the purchase of a standby generator for Well House #4 at a total cost of \$53,131.72. In the event of a loss of power, this well house currently has no alternate power source or means to operate. The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget approved by Council included this expenditure but the actual price is substantially less.

There was discussion of the advantages of upgrading this infrastructure.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-68 approving the purchase of a standby generator for the Water Department for Well House #4.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-69 to appoint City Treasurer, Kristina Kinde as the City's Officer Delegate for the MERS Conference, October 8-9, 2015, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-69 appointing an Officer Delegate to represent the City at the 2015 MERS Conference.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-70 to deny a permit application submitted under the Metro Act by KEPS Technologies Inc., dba ACD.net to use the City's public rights-of-way for the installation of

fiber optic cable and six 40' wooden poles to facilitate its telecommunications network infrastructure. City staff has reviewed the application and has determined the proposed use of poles is contrary to current City ordinance and policy and that the route proposed by ACD.net for the installation of its fiber optic cable is overburdened by existing public and private utilities.

There was discussion.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-70 to deny a permit application submitted under the Metro Act.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-71 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Kathy Parsons to the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring on June 30, 2018.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-71 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 17, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$165,785.77 and payroll in the amount of \$86,441.54 for a total of \$252,227.31. Purchase orders to Mid-Michigan Emergency Equipment in the amount of \$10,419.49 for a Road Ready Package & equipment for the 2016 police vehicle, The Eagle Group Ltd. In the amount of \$8,500.00 for replacement of gates and railing due to tornado damage, TerHorst & Rinzema Construction Co. in the amount of \$55,375.00 for repairs to City Hall due to tornado damage, and to Bert's Glass, LLC in the amount of \$9,949.25 for replacement of the west entry door at City Hall due to tornado damage were included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents 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.

City Manager Gorman further reminded residents to be watchful and watch for children as the public schools resumed today.

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

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Baldyga
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk