

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, September 21, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Council Member Clement

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; Scott Inman and Amy Hitchcock of THK Rhythm Automotive, formerly TRW Automotive; 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 let by Scott Inman and Amy Hitchcock.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that representatives of the City of Williamston visited Portland last week to meet with City staff in order to obtain information on the implementation and benefits of the local income tax.

City Manager Gorman assured City Council and residents that the City is looking into options and demolition costs for the City owned property on Canal St. that has become blighted.

The first meeting was held today with the Michigan Municipal League beginning the process of a Classification & Compensation Study of several positions within the City. Such a study has not been done since 2001. As part of this process the employee handbook will be updated and presented to the Council for adoption.

Under Presentations, Scott Inman, Plant Manager of THK Rhythm Automotive (formerly TRW) gave a summary of the sale of the company and the positive changes that have resulted. They are looking forward to continued growth after 60 years in Portland. They currently have 265 employees and \$75 million in sales per year.

DDA/Main Street Manager Perry gave a report on downtown activities. Three members of the Design Committee attended a Design Guidelines and Historic Preservation training this week in Hart along with 15 other Main Street community representatives. The workshops were led by Michigan Economic Development Corporation architects and historic preservation experts.

The Economic Revitalization Committee along with the Chamber of Commerce will host a Quarterly Business Mix and Mingle on Thursday, October 1st at the Wagon Wheel from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Organization and Finance Committee in partnership with Dr. Jason Williamson of Willemin Chiropractic and St. Patrick's Fall Fest Committee have combined efforts to bring the Rockin' River Color Run and a "Healthy Portland" health fair to Portland on October 10th and 11th.

The Promotions and Marketing Committee along with the Portland Area Historical Society will hold the 4th Annual History Walk on Sunday, October 25th. Participants will be able to "meet" past Portland business people as they greet visitors at their former places of business.

Holidayfest will be held Saturday, December 12th this year with the theme "Old Tyme Christmas".

Mayor Barnes presented a proclamation recognizing Constitution Week 2015.

Under New Business, the First Reading of Ordinance 175II to amend Section 42-186 (c) of the Portland Code of Ordinances for Parking Requirements without a drive through facility. The proposed change would decrease the required number of parking spaces and would be based on the number of employees working during the anticipated peak business hours and would be based on the maximum occupancy load. City Manager Gorman stated the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended this change to the Council for approval.

The Council considered Resolution 15-72 to extend the moratorium on the enforcement of Section 42-306 (c) (2) of the Zoning Ordinance another 90 days to accommodate reconstruction in the City after the destruction caused by the tornado on June 22, 2015. This section currently states that non-conforming structures be brought into compliance when being rebuilt after being destroyed by an act of God. City Manager Gorman stated the City would like to ensure that all residents affected by the tornado have adequate time to take advantage of this moratorium. The extension of the moratorium will take effect on Monday, October 5, 2015 with the expiration of the 90-day period of the initial moratorium.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 15-72 to extend the moratorium on the enforcement of Section 42-306 (c) (2) of the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance to accommodate reconstruction in the City.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-73 to approve the purchase of a generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be used for the Riverside Lift Station to move wastewater from lower to higher elevation where there is not sufficient gravity flow. In the event there is a loss of power the Riverside Lift Station currently has no alternate power source or means to independently operate. This purchase

was not included in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget but funds have been allocated per the Wastewater USDA loans.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-73 approving the purchase of a generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be used for the Riverside Lift Station.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-74 to approve a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House at the Red Mill building on Water Street in order to raise funds for the Red Mill Pavilion Project. At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 17, 2015 the Parks & Recreation Board recommended that City Council approve this request to use the Red Mill. The Friends of the Red Mill will be the sponsor of the Haunted House and will provide liability insurance.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-74 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House at the Red Mill.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

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 September 8, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$58,513.29 and payroll in the amount of \$145,898.97 for a total of \$204,412.26. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that as part of a 9/11 Ceremony at the Capitol, State Representative Mike Callton recognized Doug Logel Jr. of the Portland Area Fire Authority and Ambulance Director Phil Gensterblum for their efforts during the tornado on June 22, 2015.

City Manager Gorman noted the communication from McLaren included in the packet recognizing the care of a patient by the Portland Ambulance Department.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon will be held Monday, October 12th at noon at the Wagon Wheel.

City Manager Gorman welcomed and congratulated Shelley Perry for being hired as the full-time DDA Director and Main Street Manager.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga gave the Council a recap of the MML Convention he had the opportunity to attend September 16th – 18th in Traverse City.

Mayor Barnes thanked Doug Sherman for his efforts in securing quotes and information for the generator purchase and the time he puts into his monthly Wastewater Department reports. He further thanked all of the Department Heads for their efforts.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Clement

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk