

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 19, 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; DDA/Main Street Director Perry

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; 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 Baldyga, to approve the Proposed Revised Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Clement, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported the Planning Commission approved the site plans for Olivera's and Goodwill with contingencies on both. Star Nails, RCP, and Chuck and Sue Burns continue to move forward with their redevelopment plans after the damage done by the tornado on June 22, 2015. The Congregational Church and First Baptist Church have also begun reconstruction and are moving quickly.

Internal demolition, which will occur in two phases, is expected to begin this week on Old School Manor. The building plans are still in the process of being finalized and will be presented to City staff for review. Letters have been received from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority stating that Low Income Housing Tax Credits have been issued to the developer of the property and that they have recommended the building for approval as a historic structure on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

City Manager Gorman reported the bid letting for the Kent Street Improvement Project, from Academy St. to the City limits, will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015. The project will include upgrades to the utility infrastructure that are in need of repair. The increase in cost has been reviewed by the City Treasurer and are sustainable. The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$1.2 million of which the City will received \$375,000 in Federal funds. Concern has been expressed by local residents about the required removal of trees along Kent Street for completion of the project in order to place sidewalks. The City and its engineers have given serious consideration and understand the landscape will be changed. As many trees as possible will be saved but many are in need of removal anyway.

The house at 628 Canal St. owned by the City will be demolished in the next week or two.

Jim Hilligan has proposed developing a brewing company on the corner of Water St. and Grand River Ave. named Conflux Brewing Co. He will be seeking a Resolution of Approval from the City for submission to the Liquor Control Commission. The City has verified that the property is zoned C-2 and

the proposed use is proper in this area. The City will be looking at the anticipated discharge to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its potential affects.

In other City business, City Manager Gorman noted that the Electric Department is finishing up the undergrounding project outside of town in the Spohn Subdivision. Pictures of the SCADA system recently approved by Council for the Water Department were displayed. This system replaced a 15-year-old, out-of-date system and is working very well. Personnel policies are in the process of being reviewed and updated to incorporate current laws. An audit of non-union positions is being completed with the help of the Michigan Municipal League. This has not been done since 2001.

Under Presentation, DDA/Main Street Director Perry presented information on activities in the downtown. The quarterly Business After Hours, sponsored by Portland Main Street and the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at the Wagon Wheel and was well attended. The next one will be held in January 2016.

The Portland Main Street's Organization & Finance Committee in partnership with Dr. Jason Williamson of Willemin Chiropractic and St. Patrick's Fall Fest Committee combined efforts to bring a great weekend of events on October 10-11, 2015. The Healthy Portland & the Rockin' River Color Run had 72 runners on the river trail.

Portland Main Street and the Portland Area Historical Society will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual History Walk on Sunday, October 25, 2015. 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 12, 2015 and the theme will be "Old Tyme Christmas". Events will include an eggnog contest, horse and wagon group tours, crafts, music and a light parade.

In other news, the Portland Black Belt Academy celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. A focus group will meet on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at the Portland High School to talk about the hiring of a new superintendent for Portland Public Schools.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-80 to authorize the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of the Streamgaging Station required by the City's FERC license for operation of the hydroelectric plant on the Grand River. The new joint funding agreement is for the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 for a cost of \$7,850.00.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-80 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-81 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Wastewater Discharge Permit for THK Rhythm Automotive; formerly TRW. The City of Portland Sewer Use Ordinance, Section 40-119 requires all Significant Industrial Users to obtain a Wastewater Discharge Permit and THK Rhythm Automotive is a Significant Industrial User as defined in the ordinance.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-81 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Wastewater Discharge Permit for THK Rhythm Automotive.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Clement, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on October 5, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$152,988.79 and payroll in the amount of \$142,818.05 for a total of \$295,806.84. Purchase orders to Synagro Central, LLC in the amount of \$5,699.25 for biosolids hauling and land application and to the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$25,628.15 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter fire services were included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Clement, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that Trick-or-Treating will take place on Halloween, Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. The Friends of the Red Mill are holding a Haunted Mill geared towards teens and adults on October 23-24, 2015 and October 30-31, 2015. The cost is \$5.00.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga noted that he had the opportunity to preview the Haunted Mill and it is very creative and scary.

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

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk