

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 16, 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; DDA/Main Street Director Perry; Police Chief Knobelsdorf

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Denise Barnes; Bill Roeser, President and CEO of Sparrow Ionia Hospital; Jamie Goodman, Ronda Goodman, Julie McNaughton, Laurie Reeves, Katrice Sweet, Lisa Quick, Chad Goodman, and Tyler Tichvon of Portland Relay for Life

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by City Clerk Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Miller held the swearing in ceremony for newly elected Council Members Barnes, VanSlambrouck and Baldyga.

City Clerk Miller opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to nominate Barnes as Mayor.

There were no other nominations.

Council Member VanSlambrouck commented that the Mayor is an important official and he is pleased that Portland's Mayor has his finger on the pulse of the community and an advocate for Portland residents in creating a better place to work, live, go to school and play. He further stated it has been a pleasure to serve with him and he looks forward to continuing to do so as there are many exciting things happening in Portland.

City Clerk closed nominations for Mayor and held the vote for the election of Barnes as Mayor.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes thanked Council Member VanSlambrouck for the kind words and echoed his sentiments regarding the excitement over all of the activity taking place in Portland.

Mayor Barnes opened the floor for nomination for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Motion by Barnes, supported by Fitzsimmons, to nominate VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.

There were no other nominations.

Nominations were closed and City Clerk Miller held the vote for VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Yeas: Barnes, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga

Nays: None  
Adopted

Mayor Barnes noted the City Council is short one member as there were only three individuals that were on the ballot for four open seats. Per the City Charter, the vacancy must be filled with 30 days. Resumes with a cover letter will be accepted through Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. The Council will review the resumes submitted and make an appointment at its next meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Jamie Goodman of Portland Relay for Life provided a handout and presented information about the organization and their event scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2016. She clarified that fundraising in Portland directly affects the Portland area.

Julie McNaughton talked about her personal experience and the help provided by the organization during her battle with cancer.

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported he has been working with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) on the potential development of the 53 acres at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. owned by the City of Portland. The City is in preliminary discussions with Sparrow Hospital for a development on this property as they have a need for a larger facility.

Mr. Roeser, President and CEO of Sparrow Ionia Hospital, stated their organization has seen a lot of progress in Ionia County. The current clinic in Portland has been in operation for quite some time but is undersized so this particular project has been moved up the priority list. He stated they will meet with the City on Friday to discuss further plans, they are excited about getting the process going.

Mayor Barnes noted that he is excited about the potential development.

City Manager Gorman further reported that Goodwill will be breaking ground soon on the construction of their new building. He and City staff will meet with Goodwill representatives this week to discuss preconstruction issues. A ground breaking ceremony will be planned.

The City has received the contract for the Kent Street Improvement Project which will be presented to Council for approval at its next meeting.

Resumes and cover letters for the vacant Council seat will be accepted through Thursday, December 3, 2015.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Perry presented the Downtown Report. Portland Main Street and the Portland Area Historical Society held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual History Walk on Sunday, October 25, 2015. Participants were greeted by past Portland business people at their former places of business. Portland Main Street also held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition event on Monday, October 26, 2015 at The Gallery Brewery with approximately fifty people in attendance. Portland Civic Players had

near sell out audiences on its opening weekend of “Oliver”. The cast of fifty individuals will also perform in shows this upcoming weekend. Holidayfest will be held Saturday, December 12, 2015 with the theme “Old Tyme Christmas” with many family fun activities. Ameri-Pro will begin repairs to the roof of the Opera House this week. They will also remove decaying interior aspects of the property. Several parking spaces in front of the building will be blocked off for placement of dumpsters. A new business is coming into the Peake building; this will leave only one viable vacancy in the downtown for a business opportunity.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the vacating of property at 7:30 P.M.

City Manager Gorman explained the Public Hearing is to take comments on the request to vacate that portion of an abandoned public street known as Elm Street lying between Lots 9 and 16 of the Almeron and James Newman Addition (the “Addition”) to the City of Portland and between Hill and Brush Streets and that portion of an abandoned public alley lying between said Hill and Brush Streets and Lots 16 and 23. The property description is for the portion of Elm Street that went under the current building at 306 Brush Street known as Old School Manor and for an alley that would have run right next to the building.

The Public Hearing is the second step in the process of the City vacating this property. The Public Hearing was noticed and no comments have been received.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:32 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-84; a Resolution of Intent to vacate a portion of Elm Street and the portion of an alley that were formerly on the property at 306 Brush St. for the Old School Manor redevelopment project.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-84 to approve the vacation of the portion of Elm Street lying between Lots 9 and 16 and between Hill and Brush Streets and the portion of a public alley lying between Hill and Brush Streets and Lots 16 and 23.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-85 to sign an Interim Chief of Police agreement with Robert A. Bauer effective December 1, 2015. City Manager Gorman stated that current Police Chief James Knobelsdorf has resigned his position as of November 30, 2015. He further stated his appreciation for Chief Knobelsdorf’s service and commitment to the community.

Mayor Barnes thanked Chief Knobelsdorf for his service and time spent in Portland.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-85 approving, authorizing and directing the City Manager and City Clerk to sign an Interim Chief of Police Agreement with Robert A. Bauer.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-86 to approve an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) contingent on the approval of the Board of Light and Power at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 24, 2015. As a member of the MPPA's Energy Services Project Committee, the City of Portland has an opportunity to enter into a transaction to meet a portion of its future load requirements for the 2016 calendar year by purchasing energy not to exceed \$123,939.00.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-86 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-87 to confirm the appointment of Chris Tyler to the DDA with a term expiring June 30, 2018.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-87 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: 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 November 2, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$130,169.68 and payroll in the amount of \$143,193.12 for a total of \$273,362.80. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated that the contractors working on the Opera House have obtained the appropriate permits to allow the closure of the sidewalk and some parking spaces to safely provide for a chute from the roof to the dumpsters.

The flags have been lowered to half-staff by proclamation from the Governor of Michigan in honor of the victims of the November 13, 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, France through Thursday, November 19, 2015.

City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday and Friday; November 26-27, 2015.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck informed everyone that the VFW will provide a free, home cooked Thanksgiving meal to the public on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26, 2015.

Council Member Baldyga thanked the residents of Portland for their vote of approval to elect him to the City Council. He stated it is a privilege. He also thanked Police Chief Knobelsdorf for his service to the community. He stated that his thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the terrorist attacks.

Mayor Barnes also thanked the residents that came out to vote and submitted ballots in the recent City Council election. He further stated he will do his best to represent the people of the City of Portland.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk