

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 7, 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; Interim Police Chief Bauer; Police Officer Star Thomas; Eric Proctor

Guests: Audrey VanSlambrouck; Kathy Parsons; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported he attended the ground breaking ceremony held earlier today for the reconstruction of the Goodwill on Grand River Ave. Mayor Barnes and Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also attended.

City Manager Gorman met with representatives of Sparrow Hospital last week in regard to a potential development on Cutler Rd. They are still in the process of determining the feasibility of a project. This is an exciting potential development for the City of Portland.

Internal demolition and securing of the building is still underway on the Old School Manor project at 306 Brush Street.

The new generator, previously approved by Council, for the Riverside Lift Station has been received and is ready for installation as soon as the City receives the permit.

The DNR Land Acquisition Grant submitted by Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director Scheurer for property next to the Band Shell at Two Rivers Park has been awarded to the City. The grant requires a 25% match of funds from the City.

City Manager Gorman stated the City is in the process of getting quotes for the removal of the large piles of brush at Bogue Flats and the debris along the River Trail near Roe Avenue resulting from the tornado on June 22, 2015 as well as the compost pile at Bogue Flats.

The former Builders Lumber property, owned by Brian Wohlscheid, is home to a handful of small local businesses. Two separate parties interested in using some of the space as a fitness facility have approached the City about adding this as a permitted use under the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission will consider this change at its meeting in January.

City Manager Gorman welcomed back Interim Police Chief Bob Bauer. The interview process for the new Chief of Police is anticipated to take place at the beginning of the New Year.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-88 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign MDOT Contract No. 15-5478 to provide \$375,000 in Federal Surface Transportation Funds for the Kent Street Improvement Project, between Academy Street and the South limits of the City. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.2 million. The low bidder on the project was C.L. Trucking out of Ionia. They have completed previous road projects in the City of Portland.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-88 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign MDOT Contract No. 15-5478 to provide \$375,000 in Federal Surface Transportation Funds for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-89 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to authorize the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) to facilitate a contract with Consumer's Energy. The City entered into an agreement with Consumer's Energy with eight other communities to utilize its transmission lines in 2001. Consumer's Energy recently discovered that the contractual rate increases were not implemented in accordance with the agreement. The City pays approximately \$1,300.00 per month for this service and the new agreement would increase this amount to approximately \$4,000.00 per month over a 4-5 year period which would be in step with the original agreement. Consumer's Energy is not seeking retroactive reimbursement for their error and the new increases will likely not result in any rate increases to City residents. At its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the Board of Light and Power voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council authorize the MPPA to facilitate the new agreement with Consumer's Energy on behalf of the City of Portland and the other MPPA members.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-89 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to authorize the Michigan Public Power Agency to facilitate a contract with Consumer's Energy for the City of Portland.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-90 for approval of the 2016 regular meeting dates of the City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Downtown Development Authority, Board of Light and Power, Parks and Recreation Board, and Economic Development Corporation. The Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to post a list of dates of all of the regular meetings within ten days of the first meeting in each calendar or fiscal year.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 15-90 approving 2016 City Council meeting dates.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to go into Closed Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the vacant Council Member seat.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on November 16, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$200,833.58 and payroll in the amount of \$304,262.11 for a total of \$505,095.69. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for Studio 176 located at 176 Kent St. at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will also be held for the Portland Assisted Living, formerly Portland Federal Credit Union, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at Noon.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that parking is prohibited on City streets between 2:00 and 6:00 A.M. through April 1st to aid DPW crews in the safe removal of snow. He also reminded residents that shoveling or blowing snow into the streets is prohibited.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents that Holidayfest will take place this Saturday, December 12, 2015. This year's theme is Old Tyme Christmas.

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:23 P.M.

Council returned from Closed Session at 7:47 P.M.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to appoint Amanda L. Johnston to the vacant Council seat.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk