

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 21, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Baldyga and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Interim Police Chief Bauer; DDA/Main Street Director Perry; Eric Proctor

Guests: Ryan Johnston; 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 led by Ryan Johnston.

City Clerk Miller swore in new Council Member Amanda L. Johnston.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported the demolition of 628 Canal St., previously approved by Council, was recently completed. Several individuals have contacted City Hall interested in purchasing the property. After the first of the year City Manager Gorman stated that he will present information for taking bids on the property.

City Manager Gorman further stated that he recently met with representatives of St. Patrick's on preliminary plans for rebuilding the structures that were damaged by the tornado on June 22, 2015. There will be further discussions.

City Manager Gorman commended the employees of the Department of Public Works and Electric Department for their combined effort to clean up the brush and debris that accumulated under the Grand River Ave. Bridge largely due to the tornado on June 22, 2015.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Perry presented the Downtown Report. The 2015 HolidayFest on the Grand was a fun and fantastic time. This year's theme was Olde Tyme Christmas. New businesses to the Downtown include Jeneen's Nails and Day Spa, Comic Book Displays, and Studio 176. In other business news, the Portland Blackbelt Academy will be closing on December 31st and the Looking Grand Café is changing hands.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-91 to approve a bid from Hammond Farms Inc., in the amount of \$37,470.00, for waste processing and removal of debris accumulated as a result of the June 22, 2015 tornado. The Director of Public Services, Mike Hyland and DPW Foreman, Ken Gesterblum sought bids and recommend the City contract with Hammond Farms Inc. to clear the wooded area next to the Portland River Trail near Rowe Ave. damaged by the tornado, remove the accumulated

brush piles at the Bogue Flats Recreation Area and due to its proximity address the compost pile also located at the Bogue Flats Recreation Area.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 15-91 approving a bid from Hammond Farms Inc. for waste processing and removal of debris accumulated as a result of the June 22, 2015 tornado.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-92 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 after the devastating tornado that caused severe damage to many buildings and structures throughout the City on June 22, 2015.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-92 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: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-93 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to assist the City with the preparation of a Street Capital Improvement Plan, at a cost of \$5,300.00, in order to effectively assess the condition of the City streets and prioritize projects accordingly. The City will conduct a street inventory based on the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) manual for street surface condition rating.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired if the evaluation of the streets will include the utility infrastructure.

City Manager Gorman stated it generally does not, but it will also be considered in the prioritizing of actual street repairs. He further stated that Act 51 will also require a Street Capital Improvement Plan next year as a condition of funding.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated that it is great to see staff ownership in this project and it will also save the City money.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 15-93 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to assist the City with the preparation of a Street Capital Improvement Plan.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-94 to approve the making of an additional payment to Municipal Employees Retirement System to reduce the City's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. The City's one-time contribution of \$100,000 would be split among the funds to reduce the City's Actuarial Accrued Liability and increased the funded ratio of its pension. The payment contributions would be split

with \$60,000 to Division 01 General Non Union and \$40,000 to Division 12 General GELC (formerly AFSCME).

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-94 approving the making of an additional payment to the Municipal Employees Retirement System to reduce the City's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, 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 and the Closed Session held on December 7, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$84,013.68 and payroll in the amount of \$97,747.18 for a total of \$181,760.86. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Portland Assisted Living & Memory Center on January 9, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

City Hall will be closed Wednesday, December 23rd at 12:00 P.M. through Friday, December 25th for the Christmas Holiday and Thursday, December 31st through Friday, January 1st for the New Year's Holiday.

City Manager Gorman stated that it's been an exciting year and thanked the City Council for their leadership and the staff for all of their hard work and assistance.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes stated it has been an honor work with the City Staff, administration and resident of the City.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk