

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 4, 2016

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; Officers Thomas and Patterson; Eric Proctor

Guests: Doug & Noreen Logel and Family; Linda Smith; Jim Smith; Members of the Portland Area Fire Department; 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 the Logel family.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported Hammond Farms will begin work on the brush piles located at Bogue Flats within the next week.

The City has received several complaints from residents in regard to WOW! removing WLNS out of Lansing from the cable channel lineup in Portland. City Manager Gorman contacted the City's WOW! representative who stated according to their corporate office, Portland falls into the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo market. He asked if they would come to a Council Meeting to explain the rationale to City residents. The City will continue to look into this issue.

City Manager Gorman stated that the City's personnel policy and handbook has been updated and will be presented for approval at the next Council meeting.

The Council Goal Session will be held later this month to begin the budget process for the Fiscal Year 2016/2017.

Approximately 30 applications have been received for the Chief of Police position. The interview process will take place soon.

Discussions with Conflux Brewing continue in regard to their potential wastewater discharge and its effect on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Their plans include large capacity, wholesale brewing of beer.

Earlier this year on behalf of the City, Fleis & VandenBrink submitted applications to MDOT through the State's Local Bridge Program for funding of replacement or repair of the bridges on Bridge St., Grand River Ave., and Divine Hwy. The applications were not approved for this round of funding

which is a 95% grant with 5% matching funds provided by the City. Engineers from Fleis & VandenBrink will reassess the bridges and resubmit the applications by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

City Manager Gorman stated that Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director Mary Scheurer has announced her retirement, effective January 22, 2016. She has been an asset to the City and has made many contributions.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented a proclamation to Doug Logel honoring his 41 years of service to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department and Portland Area Fire Authority.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 16-01 to appoint Interim Police Chief Robert A. Bauer as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-01 appointing Interim Police Chief Robert A. Bauer as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

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 December 21, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$35,076.37 and payroll in the amount of \$193,890.30 for a total of \$228,966.67. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated that several complaints have been received in regard to businesses and homeowners that have not removed snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their property in a timely manner. The City will be delivering notices to residents and business owners to educate them on the requirements in an effort to keep people safe and to keep the sidewalks walkable.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that parking is prohibited on City streets between 2:00 and 6:00 A.M. through April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 commented that he has also received many complaints in regard to WOW!'s removal of WLNS out of Lansing from its channel lineup in Portland.

Mayor Barnes extended his appreciation to the residents of Portland for bringing attention to this matter.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes noted the City has little control since the State Legislature made changes several years ago.

City Manager Gorman stated that a meaningful dialogue will occur and the City is looking into what authority it has.

Mayor Barnes thanked Mr. Logel, his family and fellow fire fighters for attending the meeting and for their efforts in the community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk