

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 18, 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; Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director Scheurer; DDA/Main Street Director Perry; Officers Thomas and Patterson; City Hall Employees Tolan and Brown

Guests: Mike Judd; Kathy Ness; Pat Weller, Member of the Portland Parks and Recreation Board; Mikayla Tolan; 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 Mary Scheurer.

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 stated the County Treasurer has reported the County is in the process of closing with The WODA Group on the Old School Manor property at 306 Brush St. Construction will commence very soon. Representatives with the WODA Group will meet with City staff in the next week or so to go over their plans.

City Manager Gorman reported that a power outage occurred on Thursday, January 14, 2016 as a result of a truck that clipped power lines when leaving a local business. City staff was very expedient in restoring power to the area.

Kent St. will be closed tomorrow from approximately 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in order for a large beam to be placed at 128 Kent St. The dumpsters were removed last week.

Mayor Barnes inquired when construction on McDonald's will begin.

City Manager Gorman stated their plan is to begin this spring, when the weather "breaks". A specific date has not been set.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented a proclamation to Mary Scheurer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, honoring her retirement after more than 37 years of service to the City of Portland.

Under New Business, the First Reading of Ordinance 175JJ was held. The Planning Commission has recommended that "health and exercise club" be added as a permitted use in the Industrial District of the Zoning Ordinance. This use is currently permitted in all of the Commercial Districts. The request was

made by Emily Zug, of Zug Elite Training, as she would like to locate her business at 349 Water St. The property, formerly known as Builders Lumber, is owned by Brian and Nancy Wohlscheid. They have made substantial renovations and improvements to the property. The Planning Commission would like to look at adding other uses that are allowed in the Commercial Districts to the Industrial District as well.

The Council considered Resolution 16-02 to approve rate changes for the Ambulance Department to better address various circumstances that fall under the “No Transport Fee”. The Ambulance Director proposed implementing a Lift Assist No Transport Fee of \$75.00, a Basic Life Support No Transport Fee of \$140.00 and an Advanced Life Support No Transport Fee of \$225.00. The City Manager and Ambulance Director recommended that the Council approve the proposed changes.

There was discussion of the benefits of the lift assist service offered by the Ambulance Department. It was also noted that the billing, outsourced to MHR Billing, is very effective and efficient.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 16-02 approving rate changes for the Portland Ambulance Department.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-03 to approve and adopt the Revised City Employee Handbook and Conditions of Employment. The current employee handbook was adopted on July 1, 2001 and has not been formally updated or revised since that time. City staff and legal counsel have conducted a review of the employee handbook to ensure state and federal compliance and to be consistent with current best practices. The proposed Revised City Employee Handbook and Conditions of Employment will supersede and replace the current employee handbook adopted in 2001.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 16-03 approving and adopting the Revised City Employee Handbook and Conditions of Employment.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-04 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to provide construction engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project at an amount not to exceed \$109,800.00. The City Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 includes sufficient funds to cover the engineering proposal for construction engineering services.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-04 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to provide construction engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-05 to approve a capacity purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power. The City of Portland, as a member of the MPPA’s Energy Services Project Committee, has an opportunity to enter

into a transaction for a purchase of capacity from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2030 in an amount not to exceed \$864,000, pursuant to the terms of the Letter of Authorization. This recommendation will be an action item for the Board of Light and Power at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 26, 2016.

Council Member Baldyga inquired how much of the power purchased by the City of Portland is from renewables.

City Manager Gorman stated that approximately 10% of the power purchased is from renewable sources.

Mayor Barnes noted that Public Act 295 required that 10% of the power purchased by from renewable sources by 2015. The City of Portland met that requirement.

There was continued discussion.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 16-05 approving a capacity purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, 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 January 4, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$79,031.82 and payroll in the amount of \$96,745.67 for a total of \$175,777.49.

Purchase orders to the Michigan Public Power Agency in the amount of \$15,394.37 for 2016 Annual Dues and the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$6,887.00 for 2016 Membership Dues & Assessment were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager noted that the cold weather has brought about a couple of water main breaks today.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Dinner on Monday, February 8, 2016 at the Wagon Wheel. Ticket information is available on the Chamber website.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted the Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Portland Assisted Living & Memory Center earlier this month. It is a beautiful facility.

The incident of an unresponsive juvenile, reported in the monthly Police Department Report, is a reminder that drug issues are everywhere. Not just in big cities.

Mayor Barnes further noted that the water issue in Flint makes us thankful for the utility service we have in Portland. He thanked the City employees for their efforts.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the Portland Area Fire Authority audit included in the communications. It was a very good audit. He also noted that the City's representative to the Ionia

County Board of Commissioners, Jack Shattuck, has been elected Chair. The City of Portland is well represented.

Council Member Baldyga noted that it takes a lot of work from a lot of people to make things happen.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated it has been great to talk to representatives from other communities about our River Trail. The River Trail is truly remarkable and it is wonderful that we have had someone in Mary Scheurer that had the foresight to make it happen.

Mayor Barnes stated that Mary has worn so many “hats” over the years and has a unique position. She will be difficult to replace.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk