

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, March 7, 2016

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Baldyga and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Interim Police Chief Bauer

Absent: Mayor Barnes

Guests: Kathy Parsons; David Kirk; Representative Mike Callton; Portland District Librarian Cory Grimminck; Craig Patterson of The Woda Group

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to excuse the absence of Mayor Barnes.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman introduced David Kirk who will begin serving as Portland's new Police Chief on March 14, 2016. He was formerly employed with the Shiawassee County Sheriff Department.

City Manager Gorman extended thanks to Interim Police Chief Bauer for his willingness to serve during this time of transition.

Mr. Kirk addressed the Council and stated that he feels like he belongs in Portland. He further stated that he is excited for the opportunity and grateful that he has been entrusted with the position.

City Manager Gorman stated that before the tree removal process began along Kent St. City staff and engineers re-assessed the trees slated for removal and determined that four previously marked should not be removed. The City does not take this process lightly and has made every effort to save as many trees as possible. The trees marked for removal have been deemed unsafe or are being removed in order to widen sidewalks to make them ADA compliant. Trees that have been removed will be replaced at the completion of the Kent Street Improvement Project.

City Manager Gorman thanked City staff for their dedication and efforts during the snowstorm on March 1, 2016.

Under Presentations, Representative Mike Callton provided a legislative update.

Craig Patterson of The WODA Group provided an update on the progress of the redevelopment of Old School Manor. Demolition inside the building has already begun and the goal is to begin reconstruction by April 15th after the application for Part 2 of the Historic Credits is approved. Construction on the 29 units is expected to take 9 to 10 months.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and City Manager Gorman both expressed their appreciation and excitement for the project.

Cory Grimminck, Librarian for the Portland District Library, presented the library's 2014-2015 Annual Report.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 16-08 to approve AECOM's proposal for the annual water level monitoring, downstream fish passage and nuisance plant monitoring and reporting for 2016 and 2017 as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the operation of the municipal dam as part of the hydroelectric plant. The City has previously employed AECOM in consulting matters pertaining to the FERC license since 2002. The Board of Light & Power met on February 23, 2016 and recommended the Council approve the proposal in an amount not to exceed \$32,900.00.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-08 approving AECOM's proposal for annual water level monitoring, downstream fish passage and nuisance plant monitoring and reporting for 2016 and 2017.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-09 to approve reverting to charging only one No-Transport-No Treatment fee of \$170.00 for the Portland Ambulance Department rather than the various rate changes that were passed by Council by Resolution 16-02.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-09 approving rate changes for the Portland Ambulance Department.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-10 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Herb Mosser to the Board of Review with a term expiring December 2018.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-10 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston
Nays: None
Absent: Barnes
Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting and Closed Session held on February 16, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$147,479.70 and payroll in the amount of \$83,655.64 for a total of \$231,135.34. A purchase order to Cook Brothers Excavating in the amount of \$80,581.88 for trenching and burial of service at Spohn's Subdivision was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston
Nays: None
Absent: Barnes
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the article posted by the Lansing State Journal in regard to limitations of WOW!'s cable service to Portland. He further noted that he has requested a meeting with local consultants to gain a better understanding of the issue.

City Manager Gorman reminded everyone that the Presidential Primary will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

City Manager Gorman also noted that the Assessor has mailed property assessments. The Board of Review will meet Monday, March 14, 2016 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. and on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

City Manager Gorman stated that Assessor Litts has offered his resignation in order to pursue another opportunity. The City will be taking application for the Assessor position through March 30, 2016 at 5:00 P.M.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga commented that he agreed with the City Manager's review of the franchise agreement with WOW!

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked City Manager Gorman for personally meeting with the residents along Kent St. in regard to the tree removal taking place.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked City employees for the quick snow removal during the most recent snow storm.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW will host a Burger Night fundraiser on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in an effort to replenish funds for the Portland Community Fund depleted after the tornado last summer.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that not all information posted on social media is factual and that residents should call City Hall with any questions they may have.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to adjourn the regular meeting.
Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None
Absent: Barnes
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk