

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 16, 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; Police Chief Kirk, DDA/Main Street Director Perry; Eric Proctor

Guests: Georgia Sharp, Candidate for County Commissioner; Joe Russman, Starla Robertson, Brandon Martin and representatives of the Portland Rodeo; Kathy Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandon Martin.

Mayor Barnes acknowledged the passing of the long-time former City Attorney Bill Davis and former City Council Member Stacy Smith.

A few moments of silence were held in their honor.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that both of them will be missed and shared his memories of them.

City Manager Gorman extended his prayers to the families and shared some of his memories of them.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Georgia Sharp introduced herself and announced her candidacy for Ionia County Commissioner. She is a retired teacher from Portland Public School where she taught for 39 years. The Primary Election will be held Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that it has been determined that load restrictions are necessary on the Divine Hwy. Bridge. Signs stating such have been ordered and will be placed immediately once received.

Discussions with ADM have resumed in regard to their donation of the property at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. to the City. The goal of the City is that this property will be part of a new Divine Hwy. bridge design.

The City is waiting on the final land description and boundary map for submittal to Council for approval of the DNR Land Acquisition Agreement for the property at Two Rivers Park.

Representatives of the Rindlehaven development has contacted the City and stated their interest in beginning the 2nd phase of that project. The developers and City engineers are working to ensure the road at Rindlehaven meets the City specifications so the City can take over maintenance of it.

The WODA Group is expecting the closing to take place May 26, 2016 on the Old School Manor project. The plan to commence construction the next day.

No bids were received on the property at 628 Canal St. that the City acquired through tax reversion. The City will look at taking bids again or other ways to dispose of the property.

The Michigan Public Power Agency will be considering a 20-year “wind” energy capacity purchase that will be presented to Council at its next meeting.

The City realized savings this year in its software programs that have allowed the reinvestment into a Human Resources module that will be a valuable administrative asset.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Perry presented her monthly report. The Portland River Trail is one of the featured trails in this year’s Michigan Trails Magazine, a premier publication in the State of Michigan. The DDA/Main Street is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to feature Portland on a billboard along I-96. An area wide visitor’s guide is being developed with the assistance of Great Lakes Publishing. The Block Party will be held this Saturday, May 21, 2016 in downtown Portland and will feature over 40 crafters, 10 participants in the Rib Burn contest, food vendors, great bands and more.

Joe Russman of the Portland Rodeo presented information on an event that will be held June 10-11, 2016. This year will mark the 10-year anniversary of this fun-filled, family event.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 16-41 to approve the City Manager’s proposed appointment of Janet K. Ogden as the City Assessor. The current Assessor has retained full-time employment at another municipality but has remained on an interim basis. There will be some overlap between the two to help with the transition. Mrs. Ogden will be a good addition to the City of Portland.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 16-41 approving the City Manager’s proposed appointment of Janet K. Ogden as the City Assessor.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 2, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$66,689.41 and payroll in the amount of \$146,809.32 for a total of \$213,498.73. A purchase order to Synagro Central, LLC in the amount of \$6,369.75 for biosolids pump and transport was also included.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents to avoid blowing grass clippings into the road as they mow their lawns. The grass will plug the storm sewers.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Johnston commented that her daughter's second grade class came on a tour of City Hall. She thanked City Manager Gorman and staff as the event was very beneficial to the class.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk