

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 6, 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: Janae Cooper, Candidate for Ionia County Clerk; Dave Cooper; Kyle Butler, Candidate for Ionia County Prosecutor; Dale Miller, Ionia County Sheriff; Will Heath, Incoming Superintendent of Portland Public Schools; Kathy Parsons

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Janae Cooper, Candidate for Ionia County Clerk on the August 2, 2016 Primary Ballot, introduced herself and outlined her history with the Ionia County Clerk's office and presented her qualifications for the position.

Dale Miller, Ionia County Sheriff, introduced himself and stated that he is seeking re-election at the August 2, 2016 Primary Election. He provided his history and qualifications for the position.

Kyle Butler, recently appointed Ionia County Prosecutor and former Assistant County Prosecutor, introduced himself and stated that his seeking re-election at the August 2, 2016 Primary Election. He also provided his history and qualifications for the position.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated he has received a Letter of Intent from Sparrow for the purchase of property on Cutler Rd. for the development of a medical facility. The EDC will meet on Monday, June 13, 2016 at a Special Meeting to consider the Letter of Intent.

City Manager Gorman reported that he has received the draft Donation Agreement from ADM Consolidated Nutrition which is in the process of reviewing. It seems that a Phase II Environmental Study is likely.

The Kent Street Improvement Project is planned to begin on Monday, June 13, 2016 and is expected to last approximately 10 weeks.

Fleis & VandenBrink has trained City staff on how to conduct the Paser Study. They will begin the required field work within the next few weeks.

WODA's closing on the Old School Manor project was rescheduled but there has not been a delay in construction as internal demolition is still underway. There are some concerns with the headroom in one of the stairwells. Alternatives to address the situation are being considered.

Representatives from the City of Lowell will visit Portland on Thursday, June 30, 2016 as part of this year's Mayor Exchange. Representatives from Portland visited Lowell on Thursday, May 26, 2016. The communities are similarly situated. The visit to Lowell was very beneficial.

Under Presentations, Will Heath, the incoming Portland Public Schools Superintendent, introduced himself and provided his background.

DDA/Main Street Director Perry gave a report on Downtown activities. The Block Party, held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 was a fantastic event that showed an approximate 500% increase. There was phenomenal support from the community. A Business After Hours event will be held Thursday, July 28, 2016 in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The location is to be determined. The Beerfest on the Bridge will be held Saturday, August 13, 2016. Thursdays on the Grand are underway at the Band Shell. A new billboard on I-96 that will be placed in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce will be coming soon and will be up all summer.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 16-42 to approve a Land Acquisition Project Agreement to acquire additional park property across from the Bandshell at Two Rivers Park. The total project is estimated to cost \$110,000 with the DNR grant portion being \$82,500 and the local matching amount being \$27,500, assuming the DNR certified appraisal (obtained after the grant is approved) values the property at \$110,000. The City was notified that its grant application was approved and is required to execute this agreement.

City Manager Gorman credited former Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director Scheurer for her efforts on this project that began several years ago.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-42 approving a Land Acquisition Project Agreement to acquire additional park property across from the Bandshell at Two Rivers Park.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-43 to approve the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to approve, authorize, and direct the City's Electric Superintendent to sign an authorization to purchase wind energy to meet a portion of its future load requirements. This would be for a 20-year period to begin no later than 2019. The annual MWh cost is anticipated to range from \$175,000 for the 1st year and up to approximately \$230,000 in the 20th year. The Board of Light and Power unanimously voted to recommend the Council approve this purchase agreement for 1.93 megawatts of wind energy through the MPPA.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked the Board of Light and Power for their efforts.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 16-43 approving the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to approve, authorize, and direct the City's Electric Superintendent to sign an authorization to purchase wind energy.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-44 to vacate and release a portion of a utility easement for Goodwill Industries, Inc. Goodwill Industries, Inc. has requested the City vacate and release a portion of an electric utility easement that runs through the newly constructed Goodwill building. City staff has reviewed the request and determined that said portions of the utility easement is not presently used or maintained by the City and the City is satisfied that said portions of the utility easement may be released and vacated without any adverse effects. The City Council will hold a Public Hearing at its meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016, prior to consideration of the request, to allow the adjacent property owners, and any other interested member of the public, an opportunity to comment.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-44 a Resolution of Intent to vacate and release a portion of a Utility Easement for Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-45 to approve the purchase of a John Deere 2032R compact utility tractor and landscape accessories for the Board of Light and Power to maintain various City properties. Electric Superintendent, Mike Hyland, utilizing the State of Michigan's MiDeal Program recommends the City Council approve the purchase at an estimated price of \$21,584.18. At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 17, 2016, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the purchase to the City Council.

It was noted that Council Member Fitzsimmons, who is employed Bader & Sons, has no conflict with voting on this resolution as the purchase is through the MiDeal program and Bader & Sons is only the destination point for the order.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-45 approving the purchase of a John Deere 2032R compact utility tractor and landscape accessories for the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-46 to approve Bill No. 1 in the amount of \$2,565.31 to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for work performed on the Kent Street Improvement Project. The City Engineer on the project has reviewed Bill No. 1 and is recommending the City Council approve the payment.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 16-46 approving Bill No. 1 to the Michigan Department of Transportation for work performed on the Kent Street Improvement Project.

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

The Council considered Resolution 16-47 to approve the City of Portland's Defined Benefit Adoption Agreements for Union and Nonunion Employees. City employees hired prior to July 1, 2010 who are covered under the MERS Plan B4 Plan with F 50/25 waiver must now contribute 1% of their gross wages each payroll into the MERS Retirement Plan, beginning on July 1, 2016. After successful discussions and negotiations, this requirement applies to union (GELC & POLC) and nonunion City employees. In order for the City to adopt this Plan, the local governing body must approve the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement for each group of employees. The City Manager and City Staff recommend the City Council approve the attached Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement for union (GELC & POLC) and nonunion city employees.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-47 approving the City of Portland's Defined Benefit Adoption Agreements for union and nonunion employees.

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

The Council considered Resolution 16-48 to approve the Revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) and approving, authorizing, and directing the City Manager to sign the same. The City has reformed its pension plan for all employees hired after July 1, 2010 so new hires will be placed in a MERS Hybrid Pension with a 1% Defined Benefit (DB) pension multiplier that cannot be increased and a Defined Contribution portion that requires new hires to contribute 3% of their wages to the Defined Contribution (DC) pension portion. The employer's DB and DC combined pension contribution is capped at 7% and if the DB portion costs than 7%, then Employer will contribute the difference to the employees DC portion. MERS requires the approval of the revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) by City Council.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 16-48 approving the revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) and Approving, Authorizing, and Directing the City Manager to sign same.

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

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 16, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$59,272.56 and payroll in the amount of \$272,591.40 for a total of \$331,863.96. A purchase order to the MML Worker's Comp Fund for the Works Comp Premium for the period of 07/01/16 to 07/01/17 in the amount of \$31,866.00 was also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that today is the 72nd Anniversary of D-Day and reminded everyone to take a moment to honor those involved in this historic day.

There will be community events on June 22, 2016 to commemorate the anniversary of the tornado.

The Farmer's Market will be held Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Thursdays on the Grand will be held each Thursday night at the Bandshell from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted the various applications for Boards and Commissions and expressed his thanks to those that take time out to serve the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked all of the volunteers that worked at the Block Party.

Mayor Barnes stated that the Mayor Exchange event is always a great opportunity to spend time in another community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk