

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 20, 2016

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Baldyga, and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Kirk, DDA/Main Street Director Perry; Ambulance Director Gensterblum; Eric Proctor

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Nick Grenke of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman congratulated the St. Patrick's baseball team on qualifying for the State Championship game held at Michigan State University this past weekend.

City Manager Gorman reported that the Phase II Agreement on the property that ADM Alliance Nutrition is proposing to donate to the City will likely be presented to Council for consideration in July. The idea of the City taking the property is still under consideration and review. Although it would be a great short-term benefit that may be utilized during future construction and replacement of the Divine Hwy. Bridge the long-term benefits also need to be considered. There are many moving parts to be considered.

The Kent Street Improvement Project began on Monday, June 13, 2016 and is now well underway. There was some initial confusion regarding trash pickup but the City and the contractors on the project have been working with Granger to improve pickup during the duration of the project. Construction is expected to last approximately ten weeks.

City staff have been preparing for Mayor Exchange on Thursday, June 30, 2016, when representatives from the City of Lowell will visit Portland.

The Board of Light & Power is working to beautify the property located at the Hydroelectric Dam off from Lyons Rd. and is in discussions with the Arts Council in regard to removing one of the houses on the property that has fallen into disrepair.

The City is planning to offer email billing of utility bills this summer. This will provide a substantial savings on printing and mailing costs.

Neil Brown, who has been acting as Interim Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Director since Mary Scheurer retired in January, has now been permanently appointed to the position. He has been doing a great job in the position.

Under Public Hearing, Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 P.M. to approve the vacation and release of a Utility Easement for Goodwill Industries, Inc.

City Manager Gorman noted that this proposed release of easement is very similar to the ones approved recently for the properties at Old School Manor and St. Patricks. The request is to vacate a preexisting public utility easement.

Mayor Barnes noted that the required notice was published.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 16-49 to approve the vacation and release of utility easement for Goodwill Industries Inc. that runs through the newly constructed Goodwill building. City staff has reviewed the request and determined that portions of this utility easement are not presently used and may be released without any adverse effects to the public health, safety, and/or welfare.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-49 to approve the vacation of a utility easement for Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-50 to sign a Letter of Intent from Sparrow Hospital to purchase 5 acres from the City of Portland for future development. The Letter of Intent is nonbinding and provides for proposed terms that may or may not be incorporated into the purchase agreement. The Economic Development Corporation held a Special Meeting on Monday, June 13, 2016 and recommended the City Council approve the Letter of Intent with the terms of the purchase agreement to be negotiated by the City Manager.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-50 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Manager to sign a Letter of Intent from Sparrow Hospital to purchase 5 acres from the City of Portland.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None
Absent: Fitzsimmons
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-51 to approve the purchase of a new 2016 Braun Chief XL Ambulance G-4500 from Kodiak Emergency Vehicles at a cost of \$166,806.39.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired if this new ambulance will have advanced medical technology.

Ambulance Director Gensterblum stated that this ambulance will replace the 2004 ambulance that is currently in service. The equipment will be removed from that ambulance and will be placed in the new one. He is working to upgrade all of the equipment in the ambulance.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that Director Gensterblum is doing a great job and to keep up the good work.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-51 approving the purchase of a new ambulance.

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

The Council considered Resolution 16-52 to opt-out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 which requires all electric utilities to charge up to \$0.99 per month on customer bills to raise revenue that would go into the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund administered by the State to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. PA 95 provides that a municipally owned electric utility may annually opt out of collecting funds but may not shut off electricity to residential customers during heating season from November 1st to April 1st for nonpayment of a delinquent account. The City of Portland has previously adopted electric shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shut-offs during the heating season and opting out of collecting funds for this fund would extend protection from shut-offs during the heating season and not raise all customer bills by \$0.99 per month. The City of Portland has previously opted out of this program in 2014 and 2015. The Board of Light and Power will meet at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 21, 2016 and will discuss opting out of collecting funds for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund rather than raise all customer's bills by up to \$0.99 per month.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-52 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power.

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

The Council considered Resolution 16-53 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-53 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-54 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to Boards & Commissions.

Mayor Barnes read over the names of those being considered for appointments.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-54 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 6, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$208,804.16 and payroll in the amount of \$105,255.40 for a total of \$314,059.56. Purchase orders to Granger Container for the 2016 Spring Cleanup in the amount of \$10,420.00 and the Portland Area Fire Authority for 4th Quarter Fire Services in the amount of \$25,625.15 were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman residents that Thursday, June 22, 2016 will mark the 1-year anniversary of the tornado in Portland. There will be several events held throughout the day.

The ribbon cutting for the Grand Opening of the Goodwill store will be held Saturday, June 25, 2016.

St. Patricks Church will hold their annual Summerfest event this weekend as well.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck congratulated Neil Brown on being named the permanent Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery. He has been doing a great job.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also noted that it is exciting to see the Sparrow Development moving forward in Portland as it goes well with the intended purpose of the property.

Council Member Baldyga encourage the public to ask questions they may have in regard to the finances of the City.

Council Member Baldyga also congratulated the St. Patricks baseball team on their season. It was exciting to see what seemed like half of Portland at the Championship game at MSU on Saturday.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk