

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 15, 2016

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Council Members Fitzsimmons, and Baldyga; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Kirk

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck; Council Member Johnston

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Monica Tissue-Daws, Candidate for 8th Circuit Court Judge

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and Council Member Johnston.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Monica Tissue-Daws, candidate for 8th Circuit Court Judge, introduced herself and provided her qualifications.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman provided an update on the ADM Phase II Environmental Assessment stating that it is going very well and the soil borings will be taken next Tuesday.

The FWA (Federal Highway Association) contacted City Manager Gorman last week to schedule a bridge inspection; this inspection was not related to the bridge inspections done for the City by Fleis & VandenBrink. The inspection was completed last Tuesday and there were no findings; which is very good.

City Manager Gorman stated that contractors on the Kent St. Improvement Project began laying the base coat yesterday. The project continues to move along well. He further stated that he has been in contact with Portland Public Schools Superintendent Will Heath to ensure that traffic will flow for the beginning of the school year.

Fleis & VandenBrink has completed the spreadsheet report of the findings resulting from the PASER study field work. City Manager Gorman suggested holding a workshop with the Council to review the findings and determine the priority for street repairs and maintenance.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman stated that he has been in contact with Conflux Brewing Company in regard to their planned development in Portland. They are still working through the planning process but will need to have a Liquor License Application approved by the City Council in the near future.

City Manager Gorman also reported that he is receipt of a Proposed Purchase Agreement from Sparrow for property at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. He is in the process of reviewing the agreement and will also take it to the Economic Development Corporation for their review.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) contacted the City in regard to participating in their event on Thursday, August 25, 2016 to discuss repurposing waterways. City Manager Gorman will speak at the event as this provides a great opportunity to showcase Portland's strengths.

City Manager Gorman asked Chief Kirk to speak about the recent vandalism that has taken place.

Chief Kirk stated that between August 4, 2016 and August 6, 2016 graffiti was found at various locations along the River Trail and then at a couple of local churches. The Police Department was able to obtain good evidence and establish a good case which led to the recent warrant that was issued for a suspect. Another suspect has been identified and will likely be charged. This solving of this case has been a great partnership between the community and the Police Department.

Mayor Barnes agreed and stated that the community support has also been evidenced by the response to the tornado last summer. He further thanked Chief Kirk and the Police Department for taking care of business the way it should be done.

Council Member Baldyga echoed the Mayor's sentiments and thanked the Police Department for their swift action.

Council Member Fitzsimmons thanked the Police Department as well.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 16-66 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 16-66 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Adopted

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 1, 2016, payment of

invoices in the amount of \$61,745.66 and payroll in the amount of \$106,017.95 for a total of \$167,763.61. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reported that electronic billing is now available for City utility bills. Newsletters will be sent electronically with the billing.

City Manager Gorman further reminded residents that school will be starting on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 and to be mindful of the traffic and kids going to and from school.

Beerfest on the Bridge was held over the weekend on Saturday, August 13, 2016 and was another successful event.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fitzsimmons commented that it is good to see the Kent Street Improvement Project winding down and going well. The contractors, C&L Excavating, have been doing a great job.

Mayor Barnes noted that the Grand Re-opening of the Chocolate Moose will be held Friday, August 19, 2016. The community is glad to have them back.

Mayor Barnes noted that the Beerfest on the Bridge was another enjoyable event.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Clerk Miller for the hard work effort on the Primary Election held August 2, 2016.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk