

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, September 19, 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

Guests: Will Heath, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools; Kathy Parsons; Michelle VanGeel

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Superintendent Heath stated there have been many administrative changes in the school system and that it has been a great start to the new school year. He further presented information on the Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal Election that will be on the ballot for the General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. This is a renewal of 18 mills which represents approximately 6% of the school's budget.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman commented that he attended the MML Conference last week at Mackinac Island along with Mayor Barnes and Council Member Johnston. The conference was very beneficial as there was a lot of great information shared.

In a ceremony on Saturday, September 10, 2016 the Friends of the Red Mill officially turned over the keys to the Red Mill Pavilion to the City. This was a very successful public-private partnership. Many thanks are owed to the Leik's, Noreen Logel, the many volunteers and donors. This will be a great addition to the community.

Fleis & VandenBrink are still conducting their environmental study of the property owned by ADM Alliance Nutrition. There were some soil levels that did exceed DEQ standards so City Manager Gorman stated that he authorized further testing that falls within his monetary threshold. Information that was gathered indicates the possibility of a second tank on the property. At this time the tank has not been located, it may have already been removed. The full report should be completed soon.

City Manager Gorman reported that he and Wastewater Superintendent Sherman met with engineers from Fleis & VandenBrink in regard to the heating issues on the grit and sludge buildings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Fleis & VandenBrink will be proposing solutions to the issue.

Engineers for the City of Portland are cautiously optimistic the City will be awarded the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Grant around this time next year. This City could receive up to \$790,000 (with a 10% required match) to develop an asset management plan.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 16-69 to approve the high bid of \$10,565.00 for the tax reverted property at 628 Canal St. A second Notice of Intent will be published to sell the property, and the necessary contract and resolution will be placed on file with the City Clerk for at least 10 days before the City Council will approve the final sale.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the City has worked a long time to get this property back on the tax roll. The sale of this property is very good.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 16-69 approving a bid for sale of the tax reverted property at 628 Canal St.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-70 to approve Bill No. 3 in the amount of \$60,413.63 to MDOT for work performed on the Kent Street Improvement Project. The City Engineer on the project has reviewed the bill and is recommending its payment.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-70 approving Bill No. 3 to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for work performed on the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-71 to approve an energy purchase through Michigan Public Power Agency to meet a portion of the future load requirements for the 2020 calendar year not to exceed the amount of \$78,840.00. This recommendation will be an action item for the Board of Light & Power at its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 and is contingent upon their approval.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 16-71 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light & Power.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 16-72 to approve the purchase and installation of a three-rail fence for the Kent Street Improvement Project. The design of the project required installation of substantial retaining walls along Kent Street. The retaining wall height in many areas exceeds the Code and requires installation of a fence for safety reasons. CL Trucking & Excavating, LLC, the contractor on the project, has provided a quote for the installation of the fence in the amount of \$21,920.00. The Kent Street Improvement Project is anticipated to be under budget when including this proposed expenditure. City Manager Gorman and City Engineers recommend that Council approve this expenditure.

City Manager Gorman added that the goal is to try and aesthetically match other fences that are located in the downtown that will also be durable, safe and long-lasting.

Council Member Johnston asked what the residents think.

City Manager Gorman stated the residents are pleased with the idea.

There was further discussion.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 16-72 approving the purchase and installation of a three-rail fence for a section of the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

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 September 6, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$214,948.85 and payroll in the amount of \$145,255.27 for a total of \$360,204.12. Purchase orders to the United States Geological Survey in the amount of \$7,850.00 for shared operation of the Streamgaging station at the Portland Hydroelectric Dam as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$27,494.48 for 2nd Quarter fire services, and Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$39,102.51 for Kent Street construction engineering services were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the VFW Post 4090 dedicated their new sign on Monday, September 12, 2016. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts and involvement with the community.

The ceremony marking the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 World Trade Center Disaster held on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at Two Rivers Park was very nice.

City Manager Gorman stated that he and Kathy Parsons have begun looking over the Portland Area Municipal Authority agreement. They will work with the townships to see if improvements can be made to the agreement.

Mike Hyland met with representatives of ACD.net last week in regard to their application to install six cellular poles in the City of Portland. The project is still being evaluated. The proposed cellular poles would enhance the service of Verizon Wireless customers.

City Manager Gorman thanked City staff, in particular the Ambulance Department and Police Department, for their commitment to the community and its residents. Their efforts to assist with the homecoming parades and area football games is appreciated.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that services were held this weekend to dedicate both the Congregational and Baptist Churches after they were damaged by the tornado on June 22, 2015. It seems that all of the insurance claims and rebuilding is coming to an end after destruction caused by the tornado.

Council Member Baldyga commented that he was at the Farmers Market this weekend, which was held inside the new pavilion for the first time. This has been such a great project to benefit the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented that the American Legion will be installing a flag pole at the Red Mill Pavilion and holding the first flag raising on Saturday, October 1, 2016.

Mayor Barnes noted that the DDA made the final payment on the City Hall building this month. This is a noteworthy accomplishment. The DDA will now be considering what future projects should be undertaken.

Mayor Barnes further noted that the MML Conference this past week was very interesting and provided meaningful information and networking opportunities.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk