

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 17, 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: Dan Paquet, General Contractor for the WODA Group on the Old School Manor Project; Kathy Parsons

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman provided a legislative update on House Bill 4209 which allows marijuana dispensaries to have up to 1500 plants. The current City ordinance prohibits dispensaries in the City limits. If the City is in favor of allowing dispensaries it would need to opt-in to the legislation. City Manager Gorman asked if the Council is in favor of opting into this legislation.

Mayor Barnes stated that he does not feel the City needs to allow marijuana dispensaries in the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and the rest of the City Council concurred.

City Manager Gorman stated that the radar/sonar testing done on the ADM property at Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. indicated there may be a tank on site. The next step is for excavation to determine if in fact a tank is present. The City is in favor of taking this next step and sharing the expense with ADM. Discussions of shared costs are ongoing.

The City received the site plan for the proposed redevelopment of Muffler Man at 738 E. Grand River Ave. The site plan proposes the addition of 2 bays with a complete remodel and expanded footprint of the building.

The revised purchase agreement from Sparrow for property for a potential development on Cutler Rd. is expected soon.

It does not look as if Portland will receive funding this time from the Local Bridge Program for reconstruction of the Divine Hwy. Bridge. The application will be resubmitted in the spring, and will continue to be resubmitted until funds are granted for the project.

A subcontractor for AT&T has been doing their part to underground utilities along Grand River Ave. near Tom's Food Center. Once the utilities along the Grand River Ave. corridor are placed underground the utility poles will be removed.

Installation of the fencing along the top of the retaining walls along Kent St. began today. The new street lights for Kent St. will be installed later this month.

Cook Brothers Excavating will begin repairs on the river trail, under the Divine Hwy. Bridge and on the back side of the Flats, tomorrow.

City Manager Gorman presented a picture of the new playground equipment installed at Brush Street Park. The equipment was purchased and installed by the WODA Group. The new playground is a great addition to the City; it has been very well received by the community.

The City of Portland received an award from Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids. They cited the City as a collaborative partner due to the work done to rebuild the Goodwill building destroyed by the tornado on June 22, 2015. City Manager Gorman stated that credit goes to City staff that facilitated the smooth rebuilding process.

Council Member Baldyga noted that it is not often that this type of award is received by a City. The City was in very "big" company as other recipients of the award included Meijer, Steelcase, the Girl Scouts and other notable organizations.

Under Presentations, Mr. Paquet, General Contractor on the Old School Manor Project for the WODA Group presented an update on the project. The scheduled completion date is May 30, 2017.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 16-79 to approve the high bid for the sale of the tax reverted property at 628 Canal St. in amount of \$10,565.00.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 16-79 approving a bid for sale of a tax reverted property.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on October 3, 2016, payment of invoices in the amount of \$75,449.63 and payroll in the amount of \$145,630.88 for a total of \$221,080.51. Purchase orders to Kendall Electric in the amount of \$6,937.36 for street light wire for Kent St., Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$7,921.88 for Kent St. engineering services and \$8,383.19 for the environmental assessment of the property at Divine Hwy. and Grand River Ave., and Abraham & Gaffney in the amount of \$13,400.00 for audit services were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents that trick-or-treating will take place on Halloween, October 31, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. The Friends of the Red Mill will hold a

Haunted Mill at the Red Mill on October 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

City Manager Gorman thanked Police Chief Kirk for his professionalism and administrative skills. He is doing great things with the Police Department.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that the Portland Civic Players will present the Little Mermaid November 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th and 13th.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk