

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 17, 2017

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 Transitional Coordination Director Briggs

Guests: Bill Rosier of Sparrow Ionia; Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; Pam Minkley; Marietta Leatherman; Karen Bota of the Sentinel Standard

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman recognized DDA/Main Street Transitional Coordination Director Briggs for stepping into the role when needed. He further thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

Mayor Barnes echoed the sentiment and also thanked Mike Judd for his efforts.

DDA/Main Street Transitional Coordination Director Briggs stated that she feels very comfortable with the direction the DDA/Main Street is headed. She further stated that she feels confident in the new DDA/Main Street Director Tina Conner Wellman and looks forward to working with her.

City Manager Gorman further reported that McDonald's plans to begin redevelopment of their building and property late this summer.

The building permit for ConfluxCity Brewery was released last week. City staff and engineers have worked with Mr. Hilligan over the past year to address the waste that will be produced by brewing beer. Mr. Hilligan has decided that the waste will be removed off site rather than be sent through the City's wastewater system.

City Manager Gorman stated that he met with Jim Valentine of Ionia County Central Dispatch, John Bush the Ionia County GIS Coordinator, and Police Chief Kirk to address problems with the emergency response issue in the Grand River area. They are working together to make the emergency response the best it can be.

City Manager Gorman reported that he attended the Grand River Water Trail meeting in Cascade Twp. last Thursday with Council Members Baldyga and Johnston. There was discussion about the processes and steps that can be taken to protect the Grand River.

Council Member Baldyga commented that the intent is to get organizations on the “same page” in terms of cleanliness, recreation, etc. There was a lot of information shared.

City Manager Gorman stated that about a year ago an application from ACD.net was submitted under the Metro Act and denied by the City Council. ACT.net has renewed discussions with the City regarding the placement of 40 ft. cell towers that would enhance cell phone technologies of Verizon customers. The City is working to balance the needs of its residents and protecting the City’s infrastructure and environment.

City Manager Gorman also stated that implementation strategies for curbside recycling are still being investigated.

City staff has also been working on upgrading internal processes this week with training and implementation of timesheet software.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented the Arbor Day Proclamation and reminded everyone that a tree planting ceremony will be held at Brush Street Park on April 28, 2017 and that seedlings will be distributed to second graders at both Oakwood Elementary and St. Patrick Schools.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 17-30 to approve the EDC’s recommendation to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement, Declaration of Restrictions, and Commission Agreement to sell approximately 5 acres of City property to the Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association.

Mr. Rosier of Sparrow Ionia stated that he is looking forward to this purchase of property so they can begin the planning of a new facility in Portland. He further stated that he looks forward to building the relationship with the City of Portland.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the negotiation process has not been easy and that he appreciates all of the effort and cooperation that has been shown. This will be great for the community.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-30 approving the Economic Development Corporation’s recommendation to approve, authorize, and direct the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement, Declaration of Restrictions, and Commission Agreement to sell approximately 5 acres of City property to the Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-31 to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2017 that will finance the reconstruction of James St. and other street projects. The bonds will be paid back within four to five years.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 17-31 to authorize issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2017.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-32 to schedule the City Council Budget Workshop on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

City Manager Gorman noted the draft budget was distributed to the Council tonight for their review. He further thanked City staff for their assistance in the budget preparation.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-32 to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council for a Budget Workshop.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-33 to set a Public Hearing on May 1, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. on the Budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-33 setting a Public Hearing on the Budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-34 to approving a License Agreement with the Friends of the Red Mill to plant wildflowers in a vacant area near the Red Mill along the River Trail; the former location of the livestock exchange. The Parks and Recreation Board met on April 17, 2017 and approved the request and recommends that the City Council approve the same.

Pam Minkley and Marietta Leatherman provided further information to the Council. The area of the proposed planting is .6 acres and would be planted in conjunction with the Michigan Wildflower Farm. They would plant the flowers and provide the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years maintenance. They would fully fund the project through 2019. Their goal is to work in coordination with the schools and teachers so they could be a part of the process.

Council Member Baldyga stated that wildflowers are sometimes a slow, subtle process that recreates a “prairie” atmosphere. He noted that it will be important to educate the public.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-34 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a License Agreement with the Friends of the Red Mill.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-35 to amend the transaction with Next-Era Power Marketing, LLC (NEPM) through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) contingent on the approval of the Board of Light and Power. The MPPA and NEPM are proposing to amend the current transaction to allow the NEPM the ability to broaden the sources of supply from the current single nuclear generation resource to other wholesale market resources.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-35 approving the amendment to the transaction with Next-Era Power Marketing, LLC through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, 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 April 3, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$64,652.53 and payroll in the amount of \$138,744.11 for a total of \$203,396.64. A purchase order to Utility Service Co., Inc. in the amount of \$15,416.63 for quarterly maintenance on the water towers was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Communications, Mayor Barnes noted that an application from Terry Frewen to serve on the DDA has been submitted and will be considered at the next Council meeting.

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman provided information on upcoming community events. The Portland Community Fund will hold a wine tasting fundraiser at the Wagon Wheel on April 20, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. Portland High School will hold a Day of Caring which will consist of a community cleanup and ice cream social on April 26, 2017. The Portland PTO is sponsoring a shoe drive through May 26, 2017 to fund an outdoor garden. A wine tasting fundraiser will be held June 5, 2017 at Olivera's to benefit Our Dog Park.

City Manager Gorman informed residents that the Annual Cleanup Day will be held Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Department of Public Works. This year each household will be limited to one pickup/trailer load in order to ensure that all residents can participate. Both Portland and Danby Township Supervisors support this change. The Hazardous Waste Cleanup will also be held Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 8:00 A.M. to Noon on the east side of the Fire Department.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Johnston noted that the outdoor garden that will be benefited by the Shoe Drive is in memory of her mom, a long time secretary with the Portland Public Schools.

Council Member Fitzsimmons noted that there was a community baseball cleanup day last Saturday and there were a lot of great comments on the condition of the baseball fields.

Council Member Baldyga stated that it is a privilege to serve and be a part of this community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk