

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 1, 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

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; Vince Aragona of NeoNetwork Development; Scott Hubble of Verizon; Kevin Shane of ACD.net; 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the City is taking another look at accepting the donation of property by ADM Alliance Nutrition at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. There is new Brownfield Coordinator for the DEQ who has advised there may be grant funds available for the cleanup of the property. Engineers with Fleis & VandenBrink have submitted an application for these funds on behalf of the City. City Manager Gorman noted that there are still pros and cons that need to be considered in the acceptance of the donation.

City Manager Gorman reported that the MDOT Bridge grant applications were submitted to MDOT by Fleis & VandenBrink. If approved, funding would be 3 years out which would allow time for planning.

The survey conducted regarding the implementation of curbside recycling indicated that 70% of City residents are in favor of adding this service. A Public Hearing will be conducted at the May 15, 2017 Council Meeting to further explore the idea.

Representatives of McDonald's have indicated they will begin construction sooner than expected; and will likely begin early this summer.

The Declaration of Restrictions agreed to under the Purchase Agreement with Sparrow has been recorded with Ionia County. A new survey of the property on Cutler Rd. will be conducted soon.

City Manager Gorman noted that a City employee that works in the Wastewater Department is being considered as the new Fire Chief as Fire Chief Baker is retiring. The City's Conflict of Interest Policy requires Council approval with a 7-day notice. The City Council will consider this matter at its meeting on May 15, 2017.

The Bond Closing for funds being bonded for street projects will be held tomorrow. The funds will be wired to the City soon after the closing.

The design process for the James St. Improvement Project are currently underway. The bid process will take place this summer with construction to take place late summer/fall.

City Manager Gorman advised that the Police Department and Cemetery Sextant are aware of the recent vandalism at the cemetery and are taking proactive measures. Unfortunately, this type of vandalism is not uncommon.

Under Presentations, Vince Aragona of NeoNetwork Development, explained the application from ACD.net on behalf of Verizon and how it would affect its Portland customers. The project would include the installation of six towers with small cell nodes that would be connected to a fiber network. The towers can be connected to any vertical structure, typically utility/light poles. He noted that because much of the City's electric is underground there are not as many utility poles in the area. He further noted that Portland has a lot of wireless usage for a small town due to the lack of good wired coverage. No construction would take place until the design and engineering phase is complete. He further stated this technology is good for the residents and the community and has a lot of valuable elements when embraced. He noted that the application could be approved on a provisional basis so that best practices could be applied in the future and integrated into a siting policy.

Mayor BARNED noted the concern of balancing the benefits with the concerns that many carriers would want to participate along with the need to protect the limited underground facilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked if the towers could be placed in the surrounding area and not directly in the City.

Mr. Aragona advised that they could not as these are small cell nodes and require placement close to the users.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked if competitors could use the same towers.

Mr. Aragona stated that their competitors would have the choice to use the same towers and same fiber.

Council Member Baldyga confirmed there application is requesting the installation of six towers that would be connected by fiber that would be buried tower to tower.

Mr. Aragona confirmed that to be the request and would depend on the use of conduit and poles that might already be in place.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked if more towers would be required in the future due to new technology.

Mr. Aragona stated that more towers would not be needed for new technology but there may be a need for expansion based on residents request as the service will greatly improve.

Mayor Barnes encouraged Portland residents to respond with their opinions on this matter.

Mr. Hubble, with Verizon, provided statistics on how individuals use wireless services and evaluate its use in their lives. He stated that this project would also enhance the public safety response as this area is

an overburdened network. He noted that he has never received complaints from residents once these systems have been installed in other communities. This project encompasses a five to ten year plan as demand is expected to grow as technology advances. They can slot cards in the nodes to keep technology up to date.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the undergrounding is the biggest concern as most of the City's infrastructure is underground.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing for the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 at 7:36 P.M.

City Manager Gorman thanked City staff and the Council for their hard work during the budget process and noted the proposed budget includes the addition of a police officer.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked staff for spending time with the Council during the budget process and answering questions to help point the City in a good direction to serve the residents.

Mayor Barnes echoed the sentiments and noted that the budget process was very inclusive and he feels confident that this is a good budget.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 17-36 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-36 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-37 to approve a License Agreement to farm the property owned by the City at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. The EDC anticipates that no development activity will occur during 2017 and recommends the City Council approve the lease. Mr. Francis Hoerner has indicated he would like to farm the property during 2017 and is willing to renew the agreement. City Manager Gorman noted he contacted Sparrow to ensure they have no issue with the farming of the property they are going to purchase. He further noted the property will be leased at the same fee as last year.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-37 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a License Agreement to farm the 52.9 acres at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-38 to Ambulance Service Agreements with the surrounding jurisdictions and the Care Plan Membership Agreement form for the 2017-2018 coverage period.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that Ambulance Director Gensterblum has been doing a great job with the management of the Ambulance Department and the community is well served.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-38 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreements with Danby Township, Portland Townships, Westphalia Township, Orange Township, Lyons Township, the Village of Westphalia, the Village of Pewamo, and Sebewa Township and Approving the Care Plan Membership Agreement Form.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-39 to a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School on Monday, July 3, 2017 as part of the fourth of July celebration hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-39 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-40 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Terence M. Frewen to the Downtown Development Authority with a term expiring June 30, 2018.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-40 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-41 to approve the purchase of automatic meter reading technology in the amount of \$29,531.98. This technology eliminates manual entry of water readings at the meter and into the billing system at City Hall.

Mayor Barnes noted that this process began several years ago.

City Manager Gorman stated that the process of converting the water meters to radio read is about 1/3 of the way complete. This technology results in dollars saved and better accuracy.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-41 approving the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading Technology.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on April 17, 2017 and the Council Budget Workshop held on April 20, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$130,417.92 and payroll in the amount of \$97,401.70 for a total of \$227,819.62. Purchase orders to T&R Electric in the amount of \$5,315.00 for a transformer, Chrouch Communications in the amount of \$6,922.50 for portable radios and chargers, and Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$13,040.14 for James St. design engineering were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the next Grand River Water Trail meeting will be held in Grand Ledge on May 15, 2017. He also stated that he is currently in discussions with the City of Grand Ledge for Mayor Exchange.

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.

City Manager Gorman noted that DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman and DDA Chair Briggs are attending the National Main Street Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. He also noted that the Block Party will be held Saturday, May 20, 2017.

City Manager Gorman stated that the Arbor Day tree planting took place on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Brush St. Park.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes reminded everyone about the outdoor garden in memory of Council Member Johnston's mom, a long time secretary at Oakwood Elementary that will be benefited by the Shoe Drive.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that Fire Chief Baker has submitted his retirement paperwork and that the Portland Area Fire Authority will be hiring a new Fire Chief.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented his feeling that if it is feasible for the City to accept the donation of property at Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. by ADM it would provide the best case scenario in terms of community safety (Fire/Ambulance/Police) as it would provide the means to keep the current bridge open during construction of a new bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Council Member Fitzsimmons commented that he is glad to be part of the budget process. It was good to work with the Council and the budget approved is a good budget.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk