

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 5, 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 Sergeant Thomas; DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman

Guests: Steve Deroshia and representatives of ACD.net; Michael Rodewald of McDonald's; Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons

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

Mayor Barnes requested a moment of silence in acknowledgement of the passing of former City Manager Tom Dempsey who served the community of Portland for over 11 years.

Mayor Barnes and Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck expressed further sentiments in remembrance of Mr. Dempsey.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated he is working on several ordinance updates including a cost recovery ordinance to contemplate the Portland Area Fire Authority, codification of the Income Tax Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance.

Curbside recycling service will begin Monday, September 11, 2017 and will be picked up every other Monday after. Refuse and recycling carts need to be placed at the curb by 7:00 A.M. The City continues to work with Danby and Portland Townships as they develop a new recycling center. City Manager Gorman further advised that the City will also consider recycling options for the commercial properties in the community.

City Manager Gorman presented photos of a signal crossing located near Grand Ledge Public Schools and presented an informational video on the proposed type of crossing. He stated that a purchase order is included in the Consent Agenda for this type of signal crossing to be located at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. in order to ensure pedestrian safety in Portland's walkable community. City Manager Gorman stated that he would like to consider signal crossings in other areas as well.

City Manager Gorman noted that position posting for a Recreation Programmer expired on August 31, 2017 and there are approximately 20 qualified applicants. Interviews will be held within the next week

or so. The Police Chief job posting will expire on September 18, 2017 and the Electric Lineman position will expire on September 22, 2017.

Under Presentations, Steve Deroshia of ACD.net presented information on potential placement of Distributed Antenna Systems, “cell phone boosters” to boost the digital signal provided by Verizon Wireless and improve E911 coverage. They are considering 6 locations at this time. Verizon has identified a gap in coverage in the proposed locations. The poles would be connected by fiber optics and would require electric service. The cities street lights are approximately 35 ft. tall; the proposed poles for the antenna systems would be approximately 40 ft. tall. The proposed poles could also host other carriers if requested. The required fiber optics is not in place at this time and would have to be laid in the right-of-way. The design and placement of the poles can be negotiated within a range of approximately 500 ft.

City Manager Gorman thanked ACD.net for working with the City as the balance between the benefit to the residents and the intrusiveness to the City’s infrastructure is weighed.

Michael Rodewald of McDonald’s introduced himself and provided an update on the redevelopment project in Portland. Mr. Rodewald stated that the store became a franchise in May 2017 rather than being corporately owned. The new McDonald’s will be state of the art in all ways and the vast majority of the staff from the previous store has been retained. The week of September 25th will begin with soft opening events and on Thursday, September 28, 2017 the store will be open to the public with 24-hour service.

DDA/Main Street Director Wellman presented the DDA Report. Beerfest on the Bridge was an extremely successful event. It sold out at 5:30 P.M. and seen a 65% increase in attendance over last year. Early numbers are projecting a net of over \$13,000.00. Representatives of the DDA/Main Street attended the Red Mill Community Day with the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce and highlighted the Portland Downtown. Interest was shown from a dozen individuals to volunteer with the DDA/Main Street. The Main Street committees are working on Building & Business Inventory, setting policies and procedures, a new website and Facebook campaign, and best practices and packages for Façade Grants. Portland is also enjoying fame beyond its borders thru the music industry. Gunner & the Grizzly Boys video highlights the Veterans Memorial Bridge. The producer of the video is planning to do other projects in Portland as well. Shelby Ann-Marie Miller recently released a ‘Portland’ music recording today from Nashville, TN.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 17-77 to award of the James Street Improvement Project to CL Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$1,081,163.26. The City received eight bids in response to its request for sealed bids to reconstruct James Street from Grant Street to Charlotte Highway.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink stated that the bids were very good and came in approximately \$300,000 under the estimated cost. He recommended the approval of the bid from CL Trucking Inc. with the alternate to include a mill/fill of Newton and Rebecca Streets. He stated that the contractor would like to begin the project on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

City Manager Gorman noted that this is a local street project and will be funded by Income Tax funds. The preconstruction meeting will likely be held later this week.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-77 approving the award of the James Street Improvement Project to CL Trucking, Inc.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-78 to amend the Downtown Development Authority's bylaws to contemplate the combination of the DDA and Main Street boards. The number of board members required to take action is also confirmed.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 17-78 approving the Downtown Development Authority's Amended Bylaws.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 August 21, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$55,671.20 and payroll in the amount of \$115,758.42 for a total of \$171,429.62. There was a purchase orders to Carrier & Gable in the amount of \$9,197.30 for a Signal Crossing at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave. and to Cook Brothers Excavating in the amount of \$10,000.00 to replace electric cables on Bristie St.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that a Traffic Control Order is being considered for Union St. to restrict parking on one side of the road in order to control traffic during large events held at Father Flohe Field. A traffic study is not required for this type of traffic control order.

Scout Park will be cleaned up this week with the help of the Department of Public Works. City Manager Gorman thanked the Garden Club for their contribution to the park over the years.

City Manager Gorman noted the purchase order for Cook Brothers approved under the Consent Agenda will allow them to dig a trench to allow for the burying of electric cables related to the development of McDonalds.

City Manager Gorman extended his thanks to the Planning Commission for all of their efforts in reviewing and approving projects and development in Portland.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga commented that it is remarkable how skilled and dedicated the people in the community of Portland are. There are so many great things happening in the community.

Mayor Barnes noted that an application for Boards and Commissions was distributed to the Council Members from Jim Sandborn. He has stated his willingness to serve on the Portland Area Municipal Authority Board. He further noted that he distributed an article to the Council regarding the State Legislature's tour of a recycling center in Emmett County and all of the great things happening there.

Mayor Barnes also noted that Hurricane Irma has formed in the Atlantic Ocean and is the strongest hurricane ever recorded.

DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman played the newly released ‘Portland’ by Shelby Ann-Marie Miller and the video by Gunner & the Grizzly Boys.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk