

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 6, 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 Thomas; DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman

Guests: Cortney Smith with St. Patrick School

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

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 reported that after an extensive hiring process Sgt. Star Thomas has been appointed Chief of Police. He is excited about the change.

Chief Thomas addressed the Council and thanked City Manager Gorman for the opportunity to lead the Police Department. She stated her hope that she makes everyone proud.

City Manager Gorman stated the City is exploring options for a new Police Department.

The required documents for the DEQ Brownfield Development Grant were submitted last week. Discussions with ADM Alliance Nutrition have resumed for renewal of the donation agreement for the property at Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy.

The City should be notified later this month whether funding will be awarded for the Divine Hwy. Bridge Replacement Project. If the City receives funding for the project, the project will not take place for 3 years so there will be time to plan additional funds etc.

If all aspects of planning come together, the Divine Hwy. Bridge will be reconstructed with a new trajectory across the Looking Glass River. This would allow the current bridge to remain open during construction and would eliminate the need for a lengthy detour.

The Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, November 8, 2017 and will begin consideration of the Land Division Act and how to handle the construction of the road for Sparrow's development and future development of the 58 acres at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. They will also discuss potential updates to the Zoning Ordinance and the "Sunset Clause" (Section 28-8 (e)) in the Sign Ordinance.

The survey for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process is well underway. The survey will close on November 9, 2017. When the last survey was done there were 230 respondents, there have been 420 respondents to date on the current survey. The next step in the process will be to hold a Public Hearing.

City Manager Gorman stated that he will be meeting with representatives of Granger Container on November 14, 2017 to discuss recycling options for commercial customers in the City of Portland.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman reported that the new website, which includes a community calendar, has been launched and has been well received. A workshop for property owners was presented with the RRC Community Assistance Team, MI Grant Administrators, and Michigan Main Street Design Team on Friday, October 27, 2017 that was attended by 22 individuals, 4 from neighboring communities.

Director Conner Wellman thanked the DPW for their assistance in the cleanup of Scout Park. She also noted that the glass in the Kent Street clock has been replaced and that the fall décor in the Downtown has been extremely well received.

The Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Escape Room and Two Rivers Counseling where food from 8 eateries will be served. Twelve local businesses will be represented and there will be 43 attendees.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 17-89 to approve Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$437,955.70 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work completed through October 27, 2017 on the James Street Improvement Project. The Engineer on the project has reviewed the pay request and is recommending its approval.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-89 approving Pay Request No. 2 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work done on the James Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-90 to approve an energy purchase in the amount of \$94,608.00 through the Michigan Public Power Agency to meet a portion of its future load requirements for the calendar year 2021. At its regular meeting on October 17, 2017, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend that Council approve the purchase.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-90 approving an energy purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-91 to approve the purchase of a 2018 GMC Sierra 2500HD pickup truck for the Department of Public Works (DPW) in the amount of \$28,820.75 through the MiDeal program. The DPW currently operates a 2010 4WD Ford F-150 with approximately 42,000 miles that is in good condition and will be repurposed to the Ambulance Department for meter reading activities. The Ambulance Department currently uses a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria with over 130,000 miles that has fallen into disrepair.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 17-91 approving the purchase of a 2018 GMC Sierra 2500HD pickup truck for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-92 to approve a Traffic Control Order establishing “no parking” along the western curb of Union Street between Grand River Ave. and Grove St. During athletic and community events at Father Flohe Field, attendees will often park on both sides of Union St. between Grand River Ave. and Grove St., thus creating a safety hazard.

City Manager Gorman further explained the parking issues around Father Flohe Field and thanked St. Patrick Parish for being a great community partner.

Cortney Smith, of St. Patrick Parish, stated they are in favor of the parking changes.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-92 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing “no parking” along the western curb of Union Street between Grand River Avenue and Grove Street.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-93 to appoint Police Chief Star Thomas as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-93 appointing Police Chief Star Thomas as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, 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 October 16, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$539,032.79 and payroll in the amount of \$209,664.78 for a total of \$748,697.57. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman thanked the Electric Department crew for their work in removing the utility poles along Grand River Ave. Removal of the utility poles was the result of much planning.

The City Council Goal Session will be held Monday, January 29, 2018.

The City Council Election will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

City Manager Gorman extended congratulations to the St. Patrick's football team for their Regional Championship and the Portland football team for their District Championship. Portland is proud of its athletes and the community support.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga expressed his pleasure in seeing members of the community working collaboratively to make things happen.

Mayor Barnes extended his thoughts and prayers to the community in Texas that recently experienced a mass shooting.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents that the winter parking ban is now in place through April 30, 2018.

Mayor Barnes stated that Roger Habegger, member of the Board of Light and Power, former Council Member and CEO of ADM Alliance Nutrition, has resigned from the Board of Light and Power in order to move closer to his family.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk