

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 18, 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; Ambulance Director Gensterblum

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Dan Paquet of the WODA Group; Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Rivard of the Michigan National Guard and Part Time Paramedic for the City of Portland; Cpt. Paul Ryan of ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves)

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Cpt. Paul Ryan presented Ambulance Director Phil Gensterblum with ESGR's Patriot Award. Director Gensterblum was nominated for this prestigious award by Sgt. 1st Class Rivard for his character, support, leadership and flexibility as his employer.

Mayor Barnes thanked Ambulance Director Gensterblum for his abilities and creating the type of environment that would be realized by this award.

City Manager Gorman played a video recap of Holidayfest held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 and thanked DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman for all her efforts in planning and hosting a successful event and making the lighting of the Veterans Memorial Bridge a success.

DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman stated that she loves working for the City of Portland and noted that the lighting of the Veterans Memorial Bridge is a dream realized for the community.

Mayor Barnes thanked DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman for her efforts and looks forward to the time to come.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that he and Chief Thomas did a walk-through both City Hall and the current Police Department with the City engineers and the architects and contractors that built City Hall. Options are being explored for a new facility for the Police Department.

The second Public Workshop for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was held Thursday, December 14, 2017 to review the project priorities and survey responses. Work will now begin on the draft Master Plan.

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2017 was canceled due to inclement weather. The Public Hearing to consider a request for a Special Land Use Permit for the property at 1323 E. Bridge St. (34-300-110-000-045-00), to rent the property as a single-family residence with a cell phone repair business to operate in the front room of the house will be renoticed.

City Manager Gorman stated that he sent a notice to the owners of Muffler Man that per Section 42-376 of the Portland Zoning Ordinance, their site plan approved December 14, 2016 by the Planning Commission is now revoked as the project must be “substantially under construction within one year after the date of approval of the site plan” or the approval is null and void.

City Manager Gorman reviewed a list of substantial accomplishments by the City of Portland in 2017.

City Manager Gorman presented a video produced by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation regarding the patronicity fundraising campaign held by the Friends of the Red Mill for the Red Mill Pavilion Project. He stated his appreciation to Noreen Logel for spearheading the effort.

Under Presentations, Dan Paquet of the WODA Group provided an update on the Old School Manor project. He stated that the outside is substantially complete and they expect to begin renting apartments after the new year.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 17-107 to approve an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency for an amount not to exceed \$78,876.00 to meet a portion of the future load for July 2018 through December 2018.

There was discussion regarding the asset that the Electric Department is to the City of Portland.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 17-107 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light & Power.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-108 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal in the amount of \$14,520.00 for engineering services associated with the remediation effort for the diesel fuel release that occurred with the failure of the underground fuel return line at the Diesel Generation Plant in January of 2009. Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal is for a three-year period covering 2018-2021.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-108 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal for engineering services associated with the remediation of the fuel spill at the Diesel Generation Plant.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-109 to approve a quote from BS&A Software in the amount of \$6,645.00 for implementation of cemetery software to replace outdated, unsupported software and to enhance its record keeping.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-109 approving a quote from BS&A Software related to the Cemetery Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on December 4, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$86,151.89 and payroll in the amount of \$99,090.53 for a total of \$185,242.42. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded all residents and business owners that City Ordinances require the removal of snow from all sidewalks within 10 hours of a snow event.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mayor Barnes stated that as evidenced by tonight's meeting the City of Portland is doing very well. He also noted that the City Manager reviews have been completed and were rated satisfactory and above.

Mayor Barnes further recognized individuals that passed on in 2017 that had an impact on the City of Portland.

Council Member Baldyga thanked Mayor Barnes for his leadership and his sentiments.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk