

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 18, 2018

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; DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: 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.

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 reported that the work and test plans have been revised and submitted to DEQ for approval of the work to be completed under the Redevelopment Brownfield Grant on the property donated by ADM Alliance Nutrition to the City.

The closing on the Two Rivers Park Acquisition is getting closer; the closing should take place in the next few weeks.

New swing sets were installed at Alton and Brush Street Parks on Friday, June 8, 2018. This is a wonderful upgrade to these parks. New basketball hoops will also be installed at both parks in the next few weeks.

City Manager Gorman reported that he met with Andy Pulling, PE/Health Teach at Portland High School, who proposed to install a mountain biking/hiking trail around Portland High School which would be adjacent to one of the City's well houses. Mr. Pulling is working with an outside organization to develop the trail system.

City Manager Gorman stated that he and Neil Brown have spoken with Todd Ness of Goose Creek Tree Farms and the MSU Extension office in regard to the gypsy moth problem in the area. They both advise that it is too late in the season to spray for the gypsy moths but it could be done next year. The cost would likely be \$15,000 - \$20,000. City Manager Gorman further noted that he has been in contact with both the Danby and Portland Township supervisors. They will consider the issue and determine what should be done next season.

City Manager Gorman noted that the City received the 2017 Actuarial Report from the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS), the City's retirement administrator. The City's unfunded liabilities have improved from 61% to 64.5% funded.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman presented her report on downtown activities. An application has submitted for \$400,000 Façade Improvement Program funds piloted by the State of Michigan. A weed control specialist and landscaper have been hired for the season to help with the streetscape appearance in the downtown. A maintenance schedule has also been created with the DPW and Parks & Recreation Seasonal employees to clean up the spiderwebs from the lamp posts and bridge/boardwalk railings. An outdoor flea market will be held the 1st Saturday of each month from June through October. Beerfest is up and running with 234 tickets sold to date. Promotions have been printed and distributed with more to come. Interviews will be conducted this week for the VISTA position. ConfluxCity Brewing opened with huge success, they have shut down for three weeks in order to brew enough beer to re-open and ensure they don't run out again. Vintage Tanning is expected to open in the first week of July.

Mayor Barnes inquired about the City's sesquicentennial celebration and Director Conner Wellman indicated the steering committee that is being formed to work on the project met for the first time earlier this month. There will be events all during 2019 culminating in a city-wide celebration on the weekend of September 20, 21, and 22, 2019.

Jon Moxey, of Fleis & VandenBrink, presented information on the Safe Routes to School program including the goal of the program, the planning process, the anticipated schedule and the scope and cost of the potential projects.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 194D to repeal the amortization schedule of the nonconforming section of the Sign Ordinance that would require all signs be brought into conformity by August 2018. City Manager Gorman noted that all of the other requirements of the Sign Ordinance will still be in effect. Signs would be required to be brought into compliance as required by Section 28-8 of the Sign Ordinance.

The Council considered Resolution 18-51 to commit \$350,000 of fund balance from the General Fund for the year ending June 30, 2018 to fund Capital Projects.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 18-51 to commit fund balance for Capital Projects.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-52 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The Finance Director has reviewed current fund balances and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and recommends Council approve the proposed budget amendments.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 18-52 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-53 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 18-53 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 4, 2018, payment of invoices in the amount of \$70,760.96 and payroll in the amount of \$111,078.04 for a total of \$181,839.00. A purchase order to Granger in the amount of \$6,570.00 for the City Wide Clean Up Day was also included.

Yeas: Johnston, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the City will not be approving any permits for Consumers Energy to do work in the City until they have restored previous projects that have been started but not completed.

The City has submitted an application for the MML Community Excellence Award for the development of the Old School Apartments on Brush St. Voting will take place June 29 through July 29 with the final 4 projects to be announced on August 3, 2018.

City Manager Gorman noted that the annual St. Patrick's Summerfest will be held this weekend June 22nd – 24th.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents to slow down while driving through town. School is out and there are children about town.

City Manager Gorman noted that June 22nd will mark the 3rd Anniversary of the tornado.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Baldyga extended kudos to everyone in the community that works to make Portland a vibrant community.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents to report unpermitted door-to-door solicitors to City Hall.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the VFW Golf Outing will be held this weekend, Saturday, June 23, 2018.

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

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk