

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 15, 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; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Ionia County Commissioner Georgia Richardson-Sharp

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 Public Comment, Ionia County Commissioner Georgia Richardson-Sharp provided a report on recent business conducted at Ionia County.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that the RFQ's for the potential privatization of the management of the Wastewater Treatment Plant are due Wednesday, October 31, 2018. The impetus for the changes is the upcoming retirement of Wastewater Department Superintendent Sherman.

The City received the preliminary scoring on the collaborative DNR Grant Application between the DDA and Parks and Recreation Department for the Toan Park Improvement Project. The feedback received from the DNR allowed an opportunity to provide supplemental information to improve the scoring. Many organizations throughout the community provided letters of support for the proposed project. This process is still in the preliminary stages and would possibly be a project slated for 2020/2021.

The DPW facility projects are moving along well and looking great. The salt barn is complete and the foundation of the vehicle storage facility has been finished. The new building should be up in the next couple of weeks.

The feasibility study with Pulse Broadband is still underway but is expected to be complete in the next few weeks. This study will determine the feasibility of providing fiber and internet to Portland residents.

City Manager Gorman stated that no new information on Proposal 1 for the legalization of recreational marijuana is available at this time. It is the position of the City of Portland that

dispensaries would not be a good fit for the community. There may be an ordinance proposed to that affect after the election.

The City of Portland Police Department Facebook page has recently been confused with that of the Portland, Oregon Police Department and has received several aggressive complaints regarding the recent riots in their City. Local media picked up on the City Manager's PSA on the City of Portland Facebook page and did a segment that has gone national.

Representatives of the Safe Routes to School grant program will meet soon and hope to get this program moving forward in the City of Portland.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 18-75 to approve a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$8,600.00 to provide conceptual design services and a feasibility study for a new police station on the City acquired parcel formerly owned by ADM located at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. The City has been actively exploring options for an updated police department including, remodeling the current space, relocating to City Hall, and refurbishing an existing building. The current Police Department has insufficient space for its needs and operations.

There was discussion.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 18-75 approving a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink to provide a feasibility and conceptual design services for consideration of a new police station.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-76 to approve the City Manager's proposed appointment of Melinda Tolan as the Finance Officer/Treasurer and to revise the designated authorized signatories for the City bank accounts. City Manager Gorman stated that the current Finance Officer/Treasurer is leaving to pursue a position with the City of St. Johns which is her hometown. He further thanked her for her expertise and contributions to the City of Portland.

Mayor Barnes echoed City Manager Gorman's sentiments.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 18-76 approving the City Manager's proposed appointment of Melinda Tolan as the Finance Officer/Treasurer and revising the designated authorized signatories for the City bank accounts.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-77 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The Finance Officer reviewed the current fund balances and expenditures for the Fiscal Year and recommends the proposed budget amendments.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 18-77 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-78 to approve Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$202,763.50 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work done on the Hyland Dr. Development & Utility Extension Project through October 6, 2018. The City Engineer on the project has reviewed the pay request and recommends its approval.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 18-78 approving Pay Request No. 2 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work done on the Hyland Dr. Development & Utility Extension Project.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-79 to approve Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$51,060.43 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work done on the James Street Improvement Project through October 5, 2018. The City Engineer on the project has reviewed the pay request and recommends its approval.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 18-79 approving Pay Request No. 6 to CL Trucking, Inc. for work done on the James Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 18-80 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Council Member Robert Baldyga to the Board of Light and Power.

Mayor Barnes noted that Council Member Baldyga will be a valuable addition to the Board of Light and Power.

Council Member Baldyga thanked Mayor Barnes for the kind words and stated that he has big shoes to fill. He further stated that he will respectfully abstain from the vote.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 18-80 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Abstain: Baldyga

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on October 1, 2018, payment of invoices in the amount of \$481,456.25 and payroll in the amount of \$129,180.23 for a total of \$610,636.48. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that he has been discussing the development of a water trail along the Looking Glass River with the City Manager of DeWitt.

City Manager Gorman further noted that the sesquicentennial celebration will take place throughout 2019; a lot of individuals are helping with the planning.

Fall decorations were placed this past week by the DDA with assistance from the DPW and 7th and 8th grade students of St. Patrick School. The decorations look great.

A new form has been developed to address code enforcement issues by issuing warnings to property owners. Actual citations are almost never issued because property owners address the issues.

City Manager Gorman noted that the winter parking ban will go into effect on November 1, 2018 and will be in place through April 1, 2019. No parking is allowed on City streets between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M.

Trick-or-treating hours for Halloween will be on October 31, 2018 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fitzsimmons noted that he is glad to be moving forward with the feasibility study for the Police Department.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk