

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 21, 2019

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; Bob Lathers of The Portland Beacon

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 Revised Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that the winter weather this past Saturday, January 19, 2019, created hazardous road conditions. One of Portland's police officers was working on I-96 assisting with traffic accidents and the vehicle he was in was hit by a passing vehicle. Thankfully the officer only sustained minor injuries. City Manager Gorman reminded everyone to please drive safely and to pay attention to public service messages regarding winter weather.

Police Chief Thomas provided a summary of the accident.

City Manager Gorman noted that as approved by Council at its January 7, 2019 meeting Inside Information will conduct a statistically valid study to determine the "take rate" or level of interest from the residents in the Broadband Internet Project.

City Manager Gorman and Police Chief Thomas met with the City engineer and architect on the design for a new Police Department. The functionality of the department and evaluation of its needs were discussed.

City Manager Gorman and the City's Zoning Consultant met with representatives of Mayberry Homes last week to discuss the Phase II Development of Rindlehaven.

There was discussion.

Union negotiations are now underway with the POLC (Police Department employees) and GELC (DPW and Electric Department employees). Union negotiations and contract renewals take place every 3 years.

City Manager Gorman explained that federal funding is available for Major Street projects through the Small Urban Program. Every 3 years MDOT does a call for projects for this program. The City of Portland shares this funding with Ionia County. A meeting was held last week to determine the priority for projects. The City has changed its priority for funding from Grand River Ave. to Kent St. (from Grand River Ave. to Academy St.) The Kent St. project would be a major infrastructure project for the City potentially in 2022 which will allow time for planning.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolutions 19-02, 19-03, and 19-04 to approve Resolutions of Financial Assurance of local funds for the City of Portland's Street Improvement Projects for Kent St., and Grand River Ave. as part of the funding from the Small Urban Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-02 a Resolution of Financial Assurance of local funds for the City of Portland's Kent Street Improvement Project from Academy St. to Grand River Ave.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-03 a Resolution of Financial Assurance of local funds for the City of Portland's Grand River Avenue Improvement Project from I-96 to Bristie Street.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-04 a Resolution of Financial Assurance of local funds for the City of Portland's Grand River Avenue Improvement Project from Bristie Street to Bridge Street.

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 January 7, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$137,582.29 and payroll in the amount of \$167,776.39 for a total of \$305,358.68. Purchase orders to Power Line in the amount of \$5,803.40 for Hi Score Wire and the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$5,940.00 for 2019 membership dues were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the winter parking ban went 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. He also reminded all residents and business owners that City Ordinances require the removal of snow from all sidewalks within 10 hours of a snow event.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Daddy Daughter Dance will be held this year on February 20th and 21st from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. each night.

City Manager Gorman recognized that today is Martin Luther King Day and acknowledged all that Mr. King accomplished.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the Portland Area Fire Authority's annual audit has been completed and they received a clean opinion. The annual budget for the Fire Authority has been prepared and distributed to the jurisdictions for consideration.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the passing of Mr. Tom Almy, the oldest member of the Portland VFW, at the age of 92.

City Manager stated that the Portland Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner last week, he noted all of those individuals and businesses recognized by the Chamber.

Council Member Baldyga stated that an informational meeting was held on January 9, 2019 at Portland High School to address Human Trafficking and educate the public. The meeting was very well attended.

There was discussion.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk