

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 19, 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: Charlise Abel; Paul Galdes of Fleis & VandenBrink; Claire Galdes; Chris O'Neill of Homeworks Connect; Evan Sasiela of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard; Robert 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 Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman provided an extensive report on the recent ice jam and flooding that began on February 6, 2019 and has caused street closings, evacuations, businesses to flood, and the Wastewater Plant to operate under extreme circumstances.

City Manager Gorman thanked all of the emergency services as well as the County and State agencies that have been involved in the ongoing process of dealing with the ice jam and flooding. There has been a great collaboration of efforts and responsiveness.

City Manager Gorman provided a timeline of events and information regarding the recent and ongoing ice jam and flooding.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that this is an ongoing event. No one can predict how the river will adjust as the ice moves. He further reminded residents and businesses to remain vigilant.

City Manager Gorman presented a slideshow to provide photos and information gathered on the reconnaissance flight over the Grand River conducted by the Michigan State Police.

City Manager Gorman explained that operations in the City are under control. The Water Department is functioning normally. The electric system has sustained some damage but is also working. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is maintaining operation although it is functioning beyond its design capability.

Police Chief Thomas provided an update on actions taken by the Police Department during the flood and ongoing ice jam. They are working with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department in order to monitor the river water levels.

Mr. Galdes provided a high-level overview of how the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been affected by the flood and ice jam and what measures have been taken along with what will need to be addressed going forward.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Manager Gorman for his dedication and commitment to addressing all things related to the flooding and ongoing ice jam. He also thanked City staff for their commitment to the residents of Portland.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 19-08 to approve an agreement with the Ionia County Road Commission for chip seal repairs to Divine Highway from the north city limits to Looking Glass Ave. and Maynard Road from the city limits to Divine Highway at an estimated cost of approximately \$55,000.00.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-08 approving the use of the Ionia County Road Commission's contractor for chip seal repairs on Divine Highway and Maynard Road.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on February 4, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$71,868.30 and payroll in the amount of \$116,741.18 for a total of \$188,609.48. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, 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 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 reminded residents to be cautious and remain vigilant as the ice jam continues and flooding may reoccur.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that he had attended the recent State of the State address on February 12, 2019 as a guest of State Representative Julie Calley. It was an interesting evening, and a great event, and he thanked Representative Calley for the opportunity.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the VFW will host a fundraiser on March 1, 2019 beginning at 3:00 P.M. for the Portland Community Fund to raise money for the Ice Jam/Flood Relief.

Council Member Baldyga reminded residents to contact City Hall for information regarding the ice jam and flood.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated that he wouldn't trade the City Staff in Portland for anything. When an "event" happens in Portland they always step up and get things done and taken care of in a very professional manner.

Council Member Johnston noted how impressive it is to see so many residents helping each other when in need.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk