

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 1, 2019

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes; Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Baldyga, and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; Tammy Meyers; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons, City of Portland Representative to the Portland Area Fire Authority; Mitchell Boatman of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that the statistically valid survey for the Broadband Initiative Project is underway. The survey is being conducted by Inside Information. The preliminary findings are indicating a high response rate and that residents are strongly in favor of the City providing fiber internet service.

The budget process is underway. A draft budget will likely be presented to Council at its meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019.

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 to discuss ongoing business. Discussion will include the potential development of a new assisted living facility by The Brook. They are interested in purchasing approximately 10 acres of the Rindlehaven property from

Mayberry Homes. The Planning Commission will also discuss the marketing of the Cutler Rd. property with a real estate agent, eventually a recommendation will be made to City Council.

City Manager Gorman stated in 2015 he was appointed to the Michigan Community Emergency Council. At last month's meeting he was able to provide an update on the local State of Emergency in Portland as a result of the ice jam. He was able to provide information on what went right and what went wrong along with improvements that can be made.

City Manager Gorman further noted that the appointment of Noreen Logel as the Resource Coordinator was a huge help. In the event the City goes through an emergency situation again he would make this appointment much sooner.

Mayor Barnes noted the Portland Area Community Fund has done an amazing job of raising and distributing funds to residents affected by the ice jam and flooding.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, The Council considered Resolution 19-18 to approve the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for the Portland Area Fire Authority. City Manager Gorman noted that he and City Treasurer Tolan have reviewed the proposed budget and recommend its approval.

City Manager Gorman thanked both Kathy Parsons and Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck for serving on the Portland Area Fire Authority Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the Portland Area Fire Authority Board thoroughly reviewed the proposed budget to ensure diligence in spending.

Ms. Parsons presented information on the progress of the new fire truck being put together by Spencer Manufacturing in Charlotte, MI.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-18 approving a budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for the Portland Area Fire Authority.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-19 to approve Michigan Pavement Markings LLC's bid in the amount of \$15,617.50 for 2019 street painting.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-19 approving Michigan Pavement Markings LLC's bid for 2019 street painting.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-20 to address the collection of payments or refunds on taxes under/over \$5.00. Many taxpayers and mortgage companies pay their taxes by check via the U.S. Postal Service. On several occasions, the City Treasurer has received checks for an incorrect amount, both deficient and in excess of the amount due which has resulted in refund checks totaling less than \$5.00 and/or a request to the taxpayer to submit the balance due, which is often less than \$5.00. The proposed resolution would allow the City Treasurer to not request a secondary payment of any tax amount due less than \$5.00 once the primary payment has been made. Overpayments of taxes totaling \$5.00 or less would be handled by the City Treasurer in accordance with generally accepted regional tax collection practices.

City Manager Gorman noted that this resolution pertains to property tax and that this is common practice for many local jurisdictions.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-20 to address the collection of payments or refunds on property taxes under/over \$5.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 18, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$100,554.55 and payroll in the amount of \$98,307.84 for a total of \$198,862.39. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the annual Clean Up Day will be held Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the DPW compound from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. This year's cleanup will again be a joint effort with Danby Township and Portland Township. Residents will be limited to one load per household.

Tornado siren testing will take place the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month beginning April 6<sup>th</sup> and ending October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Under Council Comments, there was discussion of the ongoing NCAA Basketball Tournament.

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

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk