

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 6, 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; City Treasurer Tolan; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Tim Krizov; Greg Barber; Rudy Tober of Pulse Broadband; Bryan Gehrcke of Boy Scouts Troop 129; Mary Teachout, Laurie Thelen, and Ruth Ann Peake of the Portland Civic Players; Robert Lathers of The Beacon; 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 led by Mary Teachout.

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, Mary Teachout with the Portland Civic Players provided information on the marquis fundraising project to replace the original marquis on the front of the building along with other façade improvements. The grant application they are submitting is due June 1, 2019.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman presented a video produced by The WODA Group showcasing the revitalization of the Portland School Apartments.

City Manager Gorman provided information related to the power outage that occurred on Thursday, April 25, 2019. The outage was related to a Consumers Energy issue that began about 8:00 A.M. and affected the surrounding area. At about 11:00 A.M. Consumers Energy power was restored but caused a catastrophic failure on a piece of equipment at the Electric Department in Portland which continued the outage until approximately 5:30 P.M.

City Manager Gorman thanked Electric Superintendent Hyland and everyone involved for their diligence in getting the power restored to Portland as soon as possible.

City Manager Gorman noted the Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. They will hold four Public Hearings to hear public comment regarding requests to rezone the property located at 103 E. Grand River Ave. from C-2 to C-1, to amend the Rindlehaven TND PUD to remove a 10-acre parcel for rezoning, to rezone those 10-acres from the TND PUD to R-

3, and to approve a Special Land Use Permit related to the potential development of an Elderly Housing Facility by The Brook on a portion of the Rindlehaven development.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Manager Gorman for his expertise in handling this potential development that could bring employment and housing to the City of Portland.

City Manager Gorman further noted that Katie Abraham, the new Executive Director of the Michigan Municipal Electric Association visited Portland and toured the electric facilities.

The Citywide Cleanup held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 was another successfully event. In 2018 there were 248 loads brought to the Department of Public Works for disposal, this year there were 273 loads.

City Manager Gorman presented the results of the statistically valid Broadband Market Feasibility Survey that was conducted by Inside Information.

Under Presentations, Rudy Tober of Pulse Broadband presented comparatives of the survey results to four other projects that they have moved forward. The survey results for Broadband are very encouraging, especially given the competition in the area.

Council Member Baldyga stated that the survey results validate moving forward.

City Manager Gorman stated that the next step will be to perform due diligence in terms of how to finance a potential project and examine how the service would be handled administratively. This project would not only provide improved service to Portland residents but would provide the foundation for Smart City Technology.

Under Public Hearings, Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 at 7:55 P.M.

City Manager Gorman thanked City Treasurer Tolan and staff for their efforts in putting together the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.

City Manager Gorman outlined highlights and information regarding the proposed budget.

Council Member Baldyga asked how long it before information is received from the State regarding funding under the Emergency Declaration as a result of the ice jam and flooding.

City Manager Gorman stated that he expects to hear something by the end of May.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 8:05 P.M.

Under New Business, the Second Reading and Consideration of Ordinance 175NN to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland by adding a new Section 42-318 entitled “Small Wireless Communications Facilities” to Chapter 42 “Zoning” of said code.

City Manager Gorman explained that Ordinance 175NN would create the regulatory framework for the public right-of-way. This is the sister ordinance to Ordinance 199 for Small Cell Wireless Communication Facilities that was approved by Council on March 18, 2019.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Ordinance 175NN to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland by adding a New Section 42-318 entitled “Small Wireless Communications Facilities” to Chapter 42 “Zoning” of said Code.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-22 to adopt the City of Portland’s Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-22 to adopt the City of Portland’s Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-23 to amend the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-23 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-24 to approve a permit for a fireworks display at Bogue Flats Recreation Area for the Independence Day celebration on Wednesday, July 3, 2019.

City Manager Gorman presented information and a map of where the fireworks will be launched from. He further noted the fireworks are being moved from Portland High School this year due to construction that will be taking place over the summer.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 19-24 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Bogue Flats Recreation Area.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-25 to approve allowing the Boy Scouts to camp overnight at Community Lake Park.

Bryan Gehrcke, of Boy Scout Troop 129, stated the goal of the event is to provide an outdoor, overnight experience for the scouts. The event is also designed to provide greater exposure to the scout program as they will hold daytime activities and demonstrations for the public.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-25 approving the Parks and Recreation Board's recommendation to approve allowing the Boy Scouts to camp overnight at Community Lake Park.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-26 to approve the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to authorize an Energy Services Project Transaction to replace the anticipated loss of renewable energy from the Pegasus Project by expanding solar energy expected to be received from the Assembly Solar Facility in Shiawassee County.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-26 approving the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to authorize an Energy Services Project Transaction for solar energy.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-27 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jacob Spedoske to a term on the Parks & Recreation Board.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-27 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on April 15, 2019 and the Budget Workshop held on April 22, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$90,196.05 and payroll in the amount of \$222,233.60 for a total of \$312,429.65. A purchase order to Northern Pump and Well in the amount of \$16,843.00 for pump and motor rehabilitation and maintenance to Well #6 was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that he attended the National Day of Prayer event on May 2, 2019 conducted at the Red Mill Pavilion by the Portland Area Ministerial Association.

The ceremonial tree planting noted in the Arbor Day Proclamation was held on Friday, April 26, 2019 at the Red Mill Pavilion to replace a tree that had died. Seedlings were also distributed to all 2nd grade students at Portland Public School and St. Patrick Schools to promote the importance of trees in our community.

City Manager Gorman thanked and expressed his appreciation to the many volunteer groups that have volunteered to help cleanup the parks and Rivertrail.

City Manager Gorman further reminded residents to clean up after their dogs when walking them in public and to take care of their lawns and keep their grass mowed. Grass clippings should be kept out of the streets and curbs as they clog the drains and damage the infrastructure, as well as create a slip hazard.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes recognized the passing of Fred Steed, Portland resident and former member of the Portland Police Department and Ionia County Sheriff Department.

Council Member Baldyga stated that he was impressed by the depth and breadth of the Council Meeting as it speaks volumes as to the expertise of City Manager Gorman, City Staff and the community as a whole.

Mayor Barnes noted that he is very appreciative of the work and dedication of City Manager Gorman and City staff. He further stated that Portland is a great City to live in and he appreciates representing the residents of Portland.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk