

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 20, 2019

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes; Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Baldyga and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; DDA/Main Street Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons; David Straub, Chief Operating Officer of Mayberry Homes; 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.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Proposed Revised 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 the agenda for tonight's Council meeting was revised as the Public Hearing to consider an amendment to the Rindlehaven TND PUD to remove a 10-acre parcel for rezoning for the potential development of an Elderly Housing Facility was cancelled. Due to an administrative error some of the properties in the 300' radius of the proposed development did not receive the proper notices.

The Planning Commission met on May 8, 2019 and held 3 Public Hearings related to the potential development of the Elderly Housing Facility by The Brook. The Public Hearings considered an amendment to the Rindlehaven TND PUD to remove a 10-acre parcel for rezoning, a proposed rezoning of the 10-acre parcel from TND PUD to R-3 Multifamily District, and a request for a Special Land Use for a 10-acre parcel. After the Public Hearings the Planning Commission

considered and approved each. The Public Hearings will be rescheduled and reconsidered at its next meeting on June 12, 2019, along with a full site plan review, so that all of the residents will have the proper notification and opportunity for comment.

City Manager Gorman provided information regarding the size and scope of the original Rindlehaven TND PUD that was adopted in 2005. The 10 acres proposed for development as an Elderly Housing Facility is planned as commercial development in the current TND PUD.

Mayor Barnes noted his appreciation for the due diligence of the Planning Commission and all of their efforts.

City Manager Gorman noted that Ionia County Central Dispatch does not typically sound the tornado sirens for thunderstorm warnings as they did last evening in error. The tornado sirens are typically only sounded for tornado warnings.

The results of the statistically valid survey conducted by Inside Information to gauge the level of interest for a potential broadband infrastructure project were stronger than anticipated despite competition in the area. City Manager Gorman will meet with representatives of Pulse Broadband in early June to discuss the details of moving forward with the project.

The fieldwork for the Safe Routes to School project is currently being conducted for the design and engineering part of the project. Construction is expected to take place in 2020. This project is made possible due to the \$927,000 grant received from the State of Michigan, there is no match required by the City of Portland.

The Portland Area Municipal Authority Building Feasibility Study continues to move forward with a needs assessment. This is a collaborative effort with both Portland and Danby Townships.

The City has calculated damages of approximately \$200,000 as a result of the ice jam/flooding in February. These have been submitted to the State of Michigan Emergency Manager.

Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. will schedule chip sealing soon on Divine Hwy. and Maynard Rd. They are waiting on the weather.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director ConnerWellman presented her report on downtown activities. Director ConnerWellman provided updates on business and property in the DDA District along with other projects and recent activities. The DDA has reclassified the definition of primary facades for its Façade Grant Program which will allow for property owners to request more funding.

Director ConnerWellman stated that she along with City Manager Gorman, Mayor Barnes, and DDA Chair Grimminck met with representatives of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Michigan Main Street to discuss the City's status with the Main Street program as they are now operate under the umbrella of Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC). This arrangement has opened discussion with the DDA in terms of where the relationship stands with the Main Street program because of the many requirements for RRC Communities.

The DDA expects the Michigan Main Street Program to present an amendment to the current agreement next month.

Director ConnerWellman noted various community events including this year's Sesquicentennial celebration, Beerfest planning, the Annual VFW Memorial Day parade, and Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Under New Business, the First Reading of Ordinance 175PP to amend the City Zoning Map by rezoning the property located at 103 E. Grand River Ave., from C-2 general business district to C-1 central business district, as requested by Bill Fabiano.

City Manager Gorman explained the location of the property and further noted that C-1 zoning is for a typical downtown where there are zero setbacks. C-2 zoning is typically reserved for the highway district where there are standalone buildings with plenty of room for setback requirements. As this property is in the downtown district of Portland, rezoning the property to C-1 is in the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance. Rezoning this property to C-1 would also get rid of the nonconforming status.

The Council considered Resolution 19-29 to approve the Third Amendment to the First Amended Joint Fire and Emergency Services Agreement in order to finance the purchase of a 2019 Spencer Manufacturing Pumper-Rescue firetruck.

Mayor Barnes thanked Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and Kathy Parsons for serving on the Portland Area Fire Authority Board.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-29 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Third Amendment to the First Amended Joint Fire and Emergency Services Agreement.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-30 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal in the amount of \$16,400.00 to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) Services for the City's Water Department as part of the SAW Grant Process.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-30 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) Services for the City's Water Department as part of the SAW Grant Process.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-31 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Nick Lefke to the fill a vacancy on the Board of Light & Power.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-31 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, 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 May 6, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$90,878.04 and payroll in the amount of \$99,599.46 for a total of \$190,477.50. A purchase order to Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$6,258.39 to repair and replace the boilers in the Electric Department Warehouse was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman further reminded residents 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.

City Manager Gorman stated that he attended the Grand Opening of the Portland Hike & Bike Trail on Saturday, May 18, 2019. He noted that the trail is a great addition to the community and that he appreciates the good relationship with the schools.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that the old salt barn at the DPW Complex has been taken down, the area looks very nice.

Mayor Barnes noted the thank you that he received from the Portland Civic Players for allowing them to share their vision for the façade improvements to the theatre at the May 6, 2019 City Council meeting.

Mayor Barnes also noted how beautiful the tulips around the clock at Kent and Bridge Streets look. He stated his appreciation to the Garden Club for their efforts in tending to the flowers in the downtown.

Council Member Baldyga expressed his thanks to Andy Pulling and all of the volunteers involved with the development of the Portland Hike & Bike Trail; it is a great example of the cooperative efforts between the City and the schools.

Council Member Baldyga also noted some upcoming community activities including a presentation by the Portland Area Historical Society on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 showcasing the rich baseball tradition in the City of Portland. The Farmers Market will open for the season on

Saturday, June 1, 2019. The Red Mill will house a pop-up museum created by the Portland Area Historical Society in recognition of Portland’s sesquicentennial celebration.

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

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk