

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 3, 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; DDA/Main Street Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Joe Russman of the Portland Rodeo; Merry & Brian Hass of The Port; Robert Lathers of The Beacon; Nick Grifhorst 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 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 stated the Safe Routes to School kickoff meeting was held on May 28, 2019. The Safe Routes to School Grant from the State of Michigan in the amount of \$927,000 will create more safe routes to both Portland Public School and St. Patrick School. One notable improvement will be a new traffic signal at Grand River Ave. and West St. A Public Hearing will be held in late July/August to discuss the program and take comments.

City Manager Gorman met with Keith Cook of Cook Brothers Excavating in regard to the chip/seal project on Maynard Rd. and Divine Hwy. The project has been delayed due to the rainy spring but will begin soon.

City Manager Gorman and staff will meet with Pulse Broadband this week to discuss a more in-depth analysis of construction of a broadband network in Portland.

City Manager Gorman advised that POLC and GELC have reached tentative contract agreements. They should be presented to Council for approval at the June 17, 2019 Council meeting.

Under Presentations, Joe Russman presented information on the Portland Rodeo to be held Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Under New Business, the Second Reading and Consideration 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 was held.

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.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Ordinance 175PP to amend the City Zoning Map.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-32 to authorize the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for an Off-Premises Tasting Room License application for Modern Craft Winery, LLC at 143 Kent St. Modern Craft Winery, LLC, the parent organization, is seeking the license for The Port where they will sell bottled wine manufactured by Modern Craft Winery, they will also have a tasting room that serves samples.

Merry Hass, the owner of The Port, explained the business concept and noted that they will be one of six tasting rooms in the State of Michigan for Modern Craft Winery, LLC.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 19-32 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for an Off-Premises Tasting Room License Application for Modern Craft Winery, LLC.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-33 to approve an energy purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency to enter into a transaction to meet a portion of its future load requirement for October 2019 through June 2020 not to exceed \$128,765.60. At its meeting on May 28, 2019 the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend that City Council approve this energy purchase.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-33 approving an energy purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-34 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 which requires all electric utilities to charge up to \$.99 per month on customer bills to raise revenue to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. PA 95 provides that municipally owned electric utilities can opt out of collecting the funds but cannot shut off electricity to residential customers from November 1st to April 1st for nonpayment of a delinquent account. The City of Portland previously adopted electric shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shut-offs during the same time period. The City of Portland has opted out of this program since 2013.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-34 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-35 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Charlsie Abel to the fill a vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-35 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commission.

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 May 20, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$109,616.89 and payroll in the amount of \$164,577.54 for a total of \$274,194.43. Purchase orders to Michigan AgriBusiness Solutions in the amount of \$8,190.00 for Biosolid Land Application and Fence Consultants in the amount of \$10,110.00 for a fence and gate for the salt barn project were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman 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.

He also reminded residents to clean up after dogs when they are off from their own property.

The Farmers Market started for the season on Saturday, June 1, 2019.

Mayor Barnes noted the Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the pop-up museum that is in the Red Mill. It will be open on Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk