

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, July 1, 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, Portland Representative to the Portland Area Fire Authority; Mike Judd; Eric Proctor; Robert Lathers of The 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 VanSlambrouck, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated he met with representatives of Sparrow this past week to discuss potential design of their new development on Cutler Rd. They anticipate construction of (at minimum) a 10,000 sq. ft. building to replace their current facility at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. Initial construction is expected to begin Fall 2019 with the completion anticipated as Spring 2020.

City Manager Gorman noted that all of the applications submitted by The Brook have been approved. He thanked the Planning Commission, the City Council, City staff, consultants, and the public for their feedback during the approval process. The Brook is planning to begin construction by the end of July.

During the flood/ice jam this past winter the City partnered with the USDA in order to help as many residents as possible. A resident has qualified and has received assistance.

The Portland Area Fire Authority took delivery on their new fire truck.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that Fire Chief Krizov and the PAFA Board allowed the crew to be part of the planning and design for the new fire truck. They expect to get many years of service out of this new equipment.

Kathy Parsons presented several pictures of the new equipment and explained some of its functions and capabilities.

City Manager Gorman stated that the survey work on the Safe Routes to School program has been completed. The design engineering is now underway.

The Wellhead Protection Program Application has been resubmitted; the City will now go through the process of looking for a new well location.

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, recent activities, and community events. The DDA board will be discussing possible graduation from the Michigan Main Street program and construction of a splash pad independent of grant funding in upcoming meetings.

Eric Proctor presented information and an overview of Beerfest on the Bridge which will be held Saturday, August 10, 2019.

Council Member Baldyga thanked Director ConnerWellman for all of the planning and effort that goes into all of the events held in Portland.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 19-42 to approve a traffic control order to establish a four-way stop at the intersection of James St. and East St. The skewed alignment, sloped roadway and limited sight distance make it difficult for vehicles stopped on James St. to see oncoming traffic and to proceed safely through the intersection.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-42 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing a four-way stop at the intersection of James Street and East Street.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-43 to approve a traffic control order establishing No Parking along the western curb of Grove St. between Union St. and Marshall St. Parking on both sides of Grove St. prevents two-way vehicle traffic and this problem is exacerbated during athletic and community events held at Father Flohe Field, thus creating a safety hazard.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-43 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing no parking along the western curb of Grove Street between Union Street and Marshall Street.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-44 to approve 2019-2020 Ambulance Services Agreements with various political subdivisions through the Portland Ambulance Service.

City Manager Gorman noted that he is going to have Ambulance Director Gensterblum evaluate the current fees over the next year to ensure the rates are where they should be for the next year.

Mayor Barnes confirmed that this evaluation will also include the Ambulance Care Plan as all rates have remained unchanged for several years.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga to approve Resolution 19-44 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreements with Danby Township, Portland Township, Westphalia Township, Orange Township, Lyons Township, The Village of Westphalia, the Village of Pewamo, and Sebewa Township.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-45 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 19-45 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis and Closed Session Minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 17, 2019 and the Minutes and Synopsis from the Special Council Meeting held on June 18, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$42,291.34 and payroll in the amount of \$119,270.45 for a total of \$161,561.79. A purchase order to Oudbier Instrument Co. in the amount of \$5,900.00 for Blower #2 VFD replacement.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that no parking between 2:00 – 6:00 A.M. remains in effect year around in the downtown. He and Police Chief Thomas have been reviewing parking in the downtown. It appears that individuals are taking advantage of the parking spots and parking longer than allowed. The 2-hour parking will likely be reinstated, comments will be taken from the DDA board as well.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that the 4th of July fireworks will be held at dusk on July 3, 2019 at Bogue Flats. He requested that those who will be attending have patience with the traffic.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that veterans that would like to ride on the float in the parade can meet at the VFW Post at 9:00 A.M. They will move to the parade lineup from there.

Council Member Baldyga noted the passing of his sister, personal friend and mentor Sister Barb Feleo.

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

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk