

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, July 15, 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; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons, Tom St-Amour; Marilyn Danielson; 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 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 reported that with the expected heat wave that is expected this week Electric Superintendent Hyland will be monitoring the electric grid.

City Manager Gorman stated that PAMA (Portland Area Municipal Authority) contracted with Fleis & VandenBrink a couple of months ago to complete a feasibility study for the emergency services building located at 773 E. Grand River Ave. A walk through was done last week with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Ambulance Director to get a better understanding of the uses of the building.

The design work is underway and nearing completion for the Safe Routes to School program, based on the conditional commitment of almost \$1million from the State of Michigan. A public workshop will be held in the next few weeks to receive comment. Construction is anticipated to begin Spring 2020. The big-ticket item in the project will be a new traffic light at Grand River Ave. and West St.

ACD.net has reapplied for placement of the small cell nodes. The City is working with representatives of ACD.net to identify locations for placement before the official application is submitted.

City Manager Gorman noted that the DDA will be discussing the reinstatement of 2-hour parking in the downtown. There are many areas where vehicles remain parked for long periods of time which is a detriment to commercial activity.

The location of trash receptacles in the downtown, primarily the 100 block of Kent St., is being addressed. Residents who live on the east side of Kent St. will place their trash receptacles on Maple St. and residents who live on the west side of Kent St. will place their trash receptacles in two designated parking spaces in the Scout Park parking lot.

City Manager Gorman stated that he is evaluating the International Property Maintenance Code in an effort to find a way to require property owners to address property issues.

The DDA will also be discussing an amendment to its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan in order to consider a potential Kent St. Improvement Project in the future. The current TIF Plan lists a splash pad/spray park as a priority. A grant application has been submitted to the State of Michigan for partial funding of a project that would include this; the outcome of the grant application will likely be known sometime in November 2019. The DDA will also be discussing a contingency plan to complete the splash pad/spray park project with or without funding.

City Manager Gorman stated that both The Brook and Sparrow are working on their plans for development. The Brook is hoping to begin construction in the next few weeks and Sparrow plans to begin construction this Fall.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 19-46 to approve a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$8,800.00 to conduct a feasibility study of the Divine Hwy. Bridge to evaluate the potential realignment of the bridge when it is replaced.

City Manager Gorman presented further information and a conceptual rendering of a potential realignment.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-46 approving a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink to conduct a feasibility study regarding the replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on July 1, 2019 with the correction of the spelling of Sister Barb Feleo, payment of invoices in the amount of \$189,351.50 and payroll in the amount of \$109,697.54 for a total of \$299,049.04. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks at Bogue Flats went very well and thanked Kathy Parsons for all of her assistance.

City Manager Gorman noted that he walked in the Ionia Free Fair Parade with Mayor Barnes, Council Member Johnston, DDA/Main Street Director ConnerWellman, Kathy Parsons, and other representatives of the City of Portland in recognition of Portland 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration. It was a fun event.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes also commented that walking in the Ionia Free Fair Parade was a lot of fun, despite the effort due to heat.

Council Member Johnston noted that the Wagon Wheel will be hosting a fundraiser for the Portland Civic Players on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk