

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 19, 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; Police Sergeant Groenhof; Ambulance Director Phil Gensterblum

Guests: Jon Moxey, Lindsay Sagorski, and Leah Bectel of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons, Erica Sheehan; Don and Kit Pohl; Chris Jensen, Portland Township Supervisor; Tim Krizov, Portland Area Fire Authority Chief; Robert Lathers of The Beacon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Leah Bectel.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman provided an overview and information on the Request for Reconsideration of Section 19 Emergency Funding that he submitted to Governor Whitmer on August 13, 2019. He also outlined the criteria for funding under Section 19.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman stated that The Brook has begun clearing of the property for their development of a Senior Living Facility at Rindlehaven. The building permit for the project was issued this afternoon.

The Sparrow Development on Cutler Rd. is still on track to begin later this Fall.

City Manager Gorman noted that he has been in discussion with representatives of Taco Bell in regard to a possible development in Portland.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey provided an update on the Emergency Services Building Feasibility Study and presented options for renovation of the current facility and construction of a new facility.

There was discussion.

Mr. Moxey and Lindsay Sagorski provided an overview of the Safe Routes to School Improvement Project that will add sidewalks and improve intersections in Portland to encourage and enable all children to walk and bike to school safely.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading and Consideration of Ordinance 105I to amend Chapter 8, Article VI “Property Maintenance Code”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland. This amendment would adopt by reference the International Property Maintenance Code, 2018 edition, as published by the International Code Council, as the property maintenance code of the city, for the control of buildings and structures, and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties and conditions and terms of the code.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Ordinance 105I, an Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Article VI “Property Maintenance Code,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-49 to establish two-hour parking limitation to the 100 and 200 blocks of Kent Street and the 100 blocks of both East and West Bridge Street. City Manager Gorman provided a history of implementation of two-hour parking in certain areas of the downtown in 2005. The DDA has determined that incorporating timed parking restrictions into the downtown is necessary to promote commercial activity. Parking would be restricted to two-hour parking between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes noted that this is a relatively small area when the public parking lots are taken into consideration. Establishing two-hour parking will help facilitate commercial activity.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 19-49 establishing two-hour parking limitations to the 100 and 200 blocks of Kent Street and the 100 blocks of East and West Bridge Street.

Yeas: Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolutions 19-50 and 19-51 to approve a Traffic Control Order establishing a one-way stop at Knox Avenue and Storz Avenue and Barley Avenue and Storz Avenue. Recent improvements to Portland Middle School and the circulation of traffic around it have altered the functionality of the intersection and increased the volume of traffic during school peak periods.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-50 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing a one-way stop at Knox Avenue and Storz Avenue.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-51 approving a Traffic Control Order establishing a one-way stop at Barley Avenue and Storz Avenue.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-52 to approve the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology to continue the process of migrating existing water meters to the radio read meter system. The AMR system eliminates the manual entry of water readings at the meter and into the utility billing system at City Hall.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-52 approving the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading Technology.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-53 approving supplemental employment for Chris Teachout, a full-time employee of the Board of Light & Power, to work and operate Sweet Caroline's BBQ and Catering. The respective supervisor and City Manager are in support of the secondary employment request.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 19-53 approving supplemental employment for a City employee.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 5, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$196,582.98 and payroll in the amount of \$122,568.60 for a total of \$319,151.58. Also included were purchase orders to Ermco in the amount of \$11,430.00 for a transformer, AMS in the amount of \$12,000.00 for radiant heaters for the electric department warehouse, and Michigan Steel & Trim in the amount of \$20,833.08 for a new roof for the DPW building.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that new Grand River Water Trail wayfinding signs will be installed along the Grand River in Portland. The signs were provided by the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds at \$0 cost to the City.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that school begins on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, drive safe and watch out for school children.

Under Council Member Comments, Council Member Baldyga noted that there is a lot of exciting business happening in Portland. He thanked staff for all of their efforts.

Mayor Barnes noted that Beerfest on the Bridge was held Saturday, August 10, 2019, it was another great event. He thanked everyone for all of the effort that went into the event.

Council Member Johnston stated that she was checking ID's all day at Beerfest and there were attendees from many other states. It was a great event.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that before the Council meeting Noreen Logel provided the Council with a publication produced by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation highlighting the Red Mill Pavilion built with the success of the Downtown Based Crowdfunding Campaign.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Baldyga, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk