

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 18, 2019

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes; Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Member Fitzsimmons, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; John Sheehan and Family; Girl Scout Troop Members

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by City Clerk Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Miller opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to nominate Barnes for Mayor.

There were no other nominations.

City Clerk Miller closed nominations for Mayor and held the vote for the election of Barnes as Mayor.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes stated that it is a very humbling experience to go through the election and Mayoral nomination processes. It is an honor and a reflection of how the public feels about the job that is being done by the City Manager and staff. People are happy and want to keep things the same.

Mayor Barnes opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to nominate VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.

There were no other nominations.

Nominations were closed and City Clerk Miller held the vote for VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes thanked Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck for his dedication and connection to the City of Portland.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated representatives of Sparrow presented a rendering of their planned development to the Zoning Board of Appeals on November 12, 2019 and requested 3 variances, which were approved. The Planning Commission will review and consider their formal site plan at their meeting on December 11, 2019.

Taco Bell continues to work on their preliminary site plan for development of the properties located at 1433 E. Grand River Ave. and 159 Bristie St.

City Manager Gorman stated that before tonight's meeting he attended the 1st meeting of the Ionia County Road Department Advisory Board that he was recently appointed to.

The kickoff meeting with Pulse Broadband on November 6, 2019 for the development of the Executable Project Plan (EPP) was held. The project will include mapping and engineering to get a true idea of the potential cost of a fiber project and is expected to finish within 90 days. A meeting was also held with Tri-County Cooperative to discuss at a high level collaboration on a joint project.

City Manager Gorman noted that there have recently been several outages of services provided by both Verizon and WOW in the area. On Friday, November 5, 2019 Consumers Energy inadvertently cut a main fiber line of WOW's. There have been further intermittent outages of internet services as WOW makes repairs.

The City continues to work on a cohesive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that would be all encompassing to include all City departments. This will be a 6-year plan that will be used as a tool during the upcoming and future budget processes.

A formal rate study for both the Wastewater and Water Departments will be coming soon.

City Manager Gorman stated that last week he made a routine post on Facebook in regard to no front yard parking. The post received a lot of feedback from community members that have concerns with this law in relation to the effect of the no parking on City streets prohibition during the winter months. The City has been and continues to look at the winter prohibition on parking to evaluate other options.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 19-66 to approve the purchase of a 2019 John Deere 325G compact track loader in the amount of \$27,303.73 through the MiDeal program for the Board of Light and Power. The current 2007 John Deere Skid Steer has been experiencing mechanical issues and is in need of replacement.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 19-66 approving the purchase of a 2019 John Deere 325G compact track loader for the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-67 to approve a License Agreement with the Friends of the Red Mill to host Santa at the Red Mill on December 8, 2019.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-67 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit hosting Santa at the Red Mill.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, 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 and Closed Session held on November 4, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$60,375.44 and payroll in the amount of \$151,936.00 for a total of \$212,311.44. A purchase order to Bader & Sons in the amount of \$11,645.00 for a tandem load trailer was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman recognized Rosemary Neller and Madeline Frank for their many years of service to the Portland Farmers Market. He noted that they have decided to step down and the Friends of the Red Mill has decided they will take over the coordination of this effort.

City Clerk Miller provided information on the Automatic Absentee Application List recently created to provide registered voters in the City of Portland a way to receive applications for absentee ballots for every election.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Department of Public Works is working to get all of the leaves in town picked up after the heavy snowfall that was received last week.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked the residents of Portland for their support during the City Council election on November 5, 2019.

Mayor Barnes noted that there was a 15% voter turnout for the City Council election which is substantial given that there were no other issues on the ballot. He noted his appreciation for all of the City residents that took time to vote.

Council Member Johnston commended the Portland Civic Players for their 6 sold out shows of The Wizard of Oz. It was a fantastic show.

Council Member Sheehan thanked her supporters for her election to the City Council and further thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk