

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 16, 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; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Jack Sheehan, Kathy Parsons, Mike Judd

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that the Planning Commission approved the site plan for Sparrow's development at Cutler Rd. and Hyland Dr. Their tentative plan is to break ground in Spring 2020 with a Fall 2020 opening.

City Manager Gorman continues to work with Taco Bell. They are working on a draft site plan with plans to submit it to the Planning Commission in late January.

The Small Urban Project for improvements to Grand River Ave. from the city limits to Rowe Ave. was recently let for bids but came back approximately \$200,000 over bid. All bids were rejected. The scope of the project will be reevaluated and let for rebidding. The goal is for construction to begin late Summer 2020.

The Fiber EPP Project continues to move forward. City Manager Gorman stated that he be touring Homework Tri Counties facility tomorrow.

Construction on the Safe Routes to School Project will begin Spring/Summer 2020. There are numerous grading permits and easements for the project. These will be going out to residents in the next few days.

Emergency funding for the ice jam/flooding that occurred in February 2019 has been denied. Instead, the State of Michigan has created an advisory committee to receive comments and to consider these types of situations. City Manager Gorman noted that he provided comments to the

committee on December 13, 2019. All members will meet at the Michigan State Police facilities on January 14, 2020 to discuss and review.

City Manager Gorman presented photos of the ice jam and flooding that occurred this year along with accomplishments that occurred during this sesquicentennial year.

Mayor Barnes noted that many of the goals outlined in the 2014 Master Plan have been accomplished.

City Manager Gorman stated that review of the 2014 Master Plan will take place in the near future.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities. Director ConnerWellman provided updates on business and property in the DDA District and other projects, recent activities, and community events.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 19-70 to approve the City Manager's recommendation to approve rate studies for the Wastewater and Water Departments. These studies will provide an analysis to evaluate improvements that need to be made and the appropriate rates. This will provide a valuable planning tool.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 19-70 approving the City Manager's recommendation to approve rate studies for the Wastewater and Water Departments.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-71 to approve a grant agreement, in the amount of \$9,000.00, with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to update the City's Wellhead Protection Program Plan. The Grant Agreement requires the City provide an equal amount of local match. City Manager Gorman noted that as part of this program a location for a new well will be evaluated.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 19-71 approving a grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to update the City's Wellhead Protection Program Plan.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 19-72 to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Mike Judd to the Board of Review.

Mayor Barnes thanked Mr. Judd for his service on the Board of Review.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 19-72 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on December 2, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$189,310.33 and payroll in the amount of \$102,728.98 for a total of \$292,039.31. Purchase orders to City Services Incorporated in the amount of \$5,180.00 for valve installation, Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in the amount of \$13,643.00 for 2020 dues, and Gary's Heating Service in the amount of \$27,300.00 for furnaces at the Portland Area Municipal Association Building were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents to keep their vehicles locked as there have been a handful of break-ins due to unlocked vehicles.

City Manager Gorman thanked Mayor Barnes, DDA/Main Street Director ConnerWellman, Council Members Johnston and Sheehan for all of their work on Holidayfest. It was a great event; the light parade and home tours were awesome!

City Manager Gorman noted that the Ionia County Road Advisory Board met today. There was good discussion, progress towards reorganization is being made.

Over \$500.00 was collected by the City Hall employees over the year through the "Jean Fund" which was donated to the Portland Community Fund today.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes noted how attractive the display of Christmas trees is along the Rivertrail near the Red Mill Pavilion.

Council Member Johnston explained how local individuals and businesses can participate in Christmas Tree Lane. She also stated that there many fantastic volunteers that helped organize the home tours for Holidayfest.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented that showcasing Portland is an easy task with so many excellent volunteers. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mayor Barnes thanked G&B Pools and all of the other business sponsors in the City of Portland.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk