

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 6, 2020

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: Tom Derderian of Michael R. Kluck & Associates, Kathy Parsons, Bob Lathers of The Portland Beacon

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman commented on the warmer than normal weather over the holidays which allowed DPW staff to come in and pick up leaves that residents were finally able to get raked.

City Manager Gorman stated that Sparrow has submitted for the building permit for the development of their new facility on Hyland Dr. The building permit has been issued and is ready for them to pick up. Their tentative plan is to break ground on the project in Spring 2020 with a Fall 2020 opening.

City Manager Gorman, staff and City Engineers continue to work with Taco Bell. They are working on a draft site plan with plans to submit it to the Planning Commission in the near future.

Mayberry Homes is interested in constructing 13 more family homes on their property in Rindlehaven, further along the river. This plan would be a deviation from the approved TND PUD which will require them to present a plan to the Planning Commission for amendment.

The Fiber Project Executable Project Plan (EPP) continues to move forward. City Manager Gorman stated that he recently toured Homeworks Tri Counties facilities. He and City staff will visit Marshall this week to look at their facilities and gather information.

The City is in the process of obtaining the required grading permits and sidewalk easements for the Safe Routes to School project. City Manager Gorman encouraged residents to contact City

Engineer Jon Moxey, with Fleis & VandenBrink, with any questions. He further noted that part of this project will include the alignment of W. Bridge St. and Quarterline St. at Grand River Ave. in order to improve safety.

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 the estimated cost. All bids were rejected. The scope of the project will be reevaluated and let for rebidding.

City Manager Gorman noted that he and City staff are working on Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) and goals for the upcoming City Council Goal Session on January 21, 2020.

City Manager Gorman noted that he will meet with the State of Michigan advisory committee to discuss comments and to consider state of emergency funding at the Michigan State Police facilities on January 14, 2020.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-01 to approve setting the mileage charge for ambulance service at \$14.00 per mile.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-01 approving setting the mileage charge for ambulance service.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-02 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-02 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to go into Closed Session to discuss a legal memorandum regarding a proposed settlement agreement as permitted under Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act which exempts from public disclosure information or records subject to attorney-client privilege.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:25 P.M.

The Council returned from Closed Session at 7:52 P.M.

Mayor Barnes stated that Resolution 20-03 is for the Council to approve a settlement and release agreement for an employee of the Police Department who was terminated. The employee and Police Union contested the termination through an arbitration process. An agreement was reached to terminate all legal activity and reach a settlement.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 20-03 approving a Settlement and Release Agreement.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mr. Derderian thanked Chief Thomas and City Manager Gorman for their efforts during this process.

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 16, 2019, payment of invoices in the amount of \$163,937.26 and payroll in the amount of \$91,218.46 for a total of \$255,155.72. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

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 had no further comments.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that Bill Roeser, CEO of Sparrow Ionia, is retiring. He congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for his efforts in facilitating the Sparrow development project in Portland.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck further noted that the VFW will host a Burger Night on Friday, January 10, 2020.

Mayor Barnes reminded pool owners that with the unseasonably warm temperatures and rain we are experiencing if the water in their pool gets high to be sure to syphon some of it off. If pools overflow, there can be damage when there is a freeze.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk