

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 20, 2020

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

There was no public comment.

Council Member Johnston arrived at 7:03 P.M.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman presented an informational video about the upcoming 2020 Census.

City Manager Gorman stated that he along with City Treasurer Tolan and City Clerk Miller visited Marshall on January 8, 2020 to learn about their fiber system and discuss what they learned throughout the process. The visit was very beneficial. The City is still evaluating how to finance the project.

The Fiber Project Executable Project Plan (EPP) continues to move forward and is expected to be complete by the end of March. There have been discussions with Homeworks Tri-County on possible collaborations.

Taco Bell hopes to submit their Special Land Use Application and site plan to the Planning Commission for review at their February 12, 2020 meeting. City Manager Gorman noted that he has requested they conduct a traffic study.

City Manager Gorman stated that he met with representatives of Mayberry Homes on January 10, 2020 to discuss their interest in constructing 13 more family homes on their property in Rindlehaven, further along the river. This would be a deviation from the approved TND PUD which will require them to present a plan to the Planning Commission for amendment.

City Manager Gorman met with community liaison for The Brook. They are looking for ways to engage with the community.

City Manager Gorman attended the MSP Advisory Committee meeting on January 14, 2020 to discuss emergency funding. He is still looking for clarification on the administrative rules used to determine funding. The MML and other communities are involved in these discussions as well. City Treasurer Tolan has a meeting scheduled with MSP to discuss funding of the tornado in 2015 and the lack of funding for the ice jam and flooding in 2019.

City Manager Gorman noted the Planning Commission will consider a review and update of the Master Plan.

City Staff has been on working on the development of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to use as a tool in the upcoming budget process and as a future planning resource.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-04 to approve supplemental employment for City Employee Ken Gensterblum to work for the Portland Area Fire Authority.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-04 approving supplemental employment for a City Employee to work for the Portland Area Fire Authority.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-05 to amend Council Policy 99-1 to authorize the City Manager to approve secondary employment for City employees. The secondary/dual employment section of Policy 99-1 currently requires approval from City Council.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-05 to amend Council Policy 99-1 to authorize the City Manager to approve secondary employment of City employees.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting and the Closed Session held on January 6, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$195,594.60 and payroll in the amount of \$165,571.56 for a total of \$361,166.16. A purchase order to the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$5,346.00 for 2020 dues was included.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded all residents and business owners that City Ordinances require the removal of snow from all sidewalks within 10 hours of a snow event.

City Manager Gorman noted that City staff do a great job pretreating the roads for winter weather when necessary and carefully monitoring the weather for further treatment or clearing.

Under Council Member Comments, Council Member Johnston noted the Civic Players will host a Ladies Escape at the VFW on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Council Member Sheehan noted that local girl scouts will be taking cookie orders until February 2, 2020.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk