

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 16, 2020

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Council Member Johnston

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to excused the absence of Council Member Johnston.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman explained how the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is affecting operation in the City of Portland. Operations will remain relatively normal. The City will work with employees who may need to take time off to be with families. The front lobby at City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Business can be conducted through the drive thru/lobby and via email and phone.

Police Chief Thomas provided an update on how the Coronavirus has affected the Police Department and preventative measures that are being taken. Business is being conducted as usual at this time.

City Manager Gorman noted that The City of Portland has been working with local legislators to seek reimbursement for the 2019 Flood/Ice Jam through legislative action since it was denied through Michigan State Police Emergency Management. They were successful in having the

funding added to the State of Michigan supplemental budget. The City remains hopeful that this funding will be further approved.

Last week both the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission took action on requests by the developers of a proposed Taco Bell at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Bristie St. On Monday, March 9, 2020 the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the requested variances and on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 the Planning Commission approved the requested Special Land Use and site plan. Construction is expected to begin mid-summer and will take approximately 90 days.

City Manager Gorman presented the site plan for the proposed Taco Bell.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman stated that City engineers are working on the design elements of the Grand River Bridge Project. The City is working with the property owners of the former Frosty Boy and ConfluxCity Brewing to add curb and enhance the safety of the intersection at Grand River Ave. and Water St.

City Manager Gorman noted that city staff is in the midst of the budget process and taking into consideration the current national situation.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-14 to approve the Bridge Street Realignment Project and award the project in the amount of \$82,754.20 to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. During the planning stages of the Safe Routes to School project, the City requested City engineers review the geometrics of the intersection at W. Grand River Ave. and Bridge Street. The City engineers recommend reconstructing Bridge St. to align with Quarterline St.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-14 approving the Bridge Street Realignment Project and awarding same to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-15 to approve rules for the Old Red Mill Farmers' Market; which operates out of the City's Red Mill Pavilion. The Parks and Recreation Board met on February 18, 2020 and recommended approval of the proposed rules.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-15 approving rules for the Old Red Mill Farmers' Market.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston
Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on March 2, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$70,031.94 and payroll in the amount of \$115,344.15 for a total of \$185,344.15. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Absent: Johnston
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman encouraged residents to continue to support local bars and restaurants that will no longer be open to the public, but will still offer pickup and/or delivery after 3:00 P.M. today per the State of Michigan.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the VFW is closed until further notice. He encouraged residents to take proper care and to be vigilant.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated that he looking forward to the new Taco Bell restaurant and the cleanup of the corner at Grand River Ave. and Bristie St.

City Manager Gorman noted that he has received several comments from residents that are unhappy with the location of the new tobacco shop at the corner of Grand River Ave. and E. Bridge St. He stated that the business meets all local ordinances.

Mayor Barnes noted how well elections run in the City of Portland and thanked City Clerk Miller for her efforts.

Mayor Barnes thanked the members of the Board of Review for their time and dedication to the community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Absent: Johnston
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk