

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 6, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting ID# 456 214 393

Pursuant to Michigan Governor's Executive Orders 2020-15 and 2020-21

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Member Fitzsimmons, Johnston and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; Portland Area Fire Authority Chief Tim Krizov; Bob Lathers of The Beacon; Portland Public Schools Superintendent Will Heath; Wayne

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

Mayor Barnes sent his thoughts to all of the residents and business owners adjusting to the current Covid-19 pandemic. He thanked all of the first responders, City Manager and city staff for everything they are doing.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no public comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman thanked City Clerk Miller for working out the technical difficulties for tonight's meeting.

City Manager Gorman explained how the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is affecting operation in the City of Portland. City staff has transitioned to essential only operations which had been planned ahead of time by organizing into "teams" to mitigate exposure between employees. The lobby and drive thru at City Hall are closed but residents can still use the drop box, mail, email, phone and email services. Only essential meetings are being held at this time. Leaf and brush pickup service is currently suspended but is being evaluated. Water and electric utility shut-offs are suspended at this time. The 2019 income tax filing deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020.

City Manager Gorman further stated that each department in the City of Portland is doing a great job; he expressed his appreciation for all of their efforts.

City Manager Gorman noted that he met with Keith Cook, of Cook Brothers Excavating, to discuss the upcoming Bridge St. realignment project. Construction is expected to begin later this month.

City Manager Gorman stated the City is in the middle of the budget process for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. Consideration is being given to decreased revenues as a downturn in the economy is expected.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-16 to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds in order to take advantage of substantial saving in interest costs to the City. The City will request proposals from financial institutions for the purchase of refunding the bonds.

There was discussion.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-16 to authorize issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-17 to approve the Portland Area Fire Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

There was discussion about future planning by the Portland Area Fire Authority to address the accumulated fund balance.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the Portland Area Fire Authority Board will be evaluating the fund balance going forward.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 20-17 approving the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for the Portland Area Fire Authority.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-18 and 20-19 for the submission of applications for Local Bridge Program Funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge St. Bridge over the Grand River and replacement of the Divine Hwy. Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-18 approving the submittal of an Application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-19 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-20 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The Finance Director has reviewed current fund balances and expenditures and recommends the proposed budget amendments.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-21 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to approve a rate study for the Electric Department. The current electric rates became effective in December 2009 and as a matter of prudent practice formal reviews should be performed periodically. At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 31, 2020, the Board of Light and Power approved the rate study to be conducted by Utility Consulting Group, LLC.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-21 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to approve a rate study for the Electric Department.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-22 to approve AECOM's proposal for Annual Water Level Monitoring, Downstream Fish Passage & Nuisance Plant Monitoring and reporting for 2020 and 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$49,150.00. This is required as part of the licensing process by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate the municipal dam as part of the hydroelectric plant. The Board of Light and Power met on March 31, 2020 and recommended City Council approve the proposal.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-22 approving AECOM's proposal for Annual Water Level Monitoring, Downstream Fish Passage & Nuisance Plant Monitoring & Reporting for 2020 and 2021.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-23 to approve participation in the State Bid Process for Winter Road Salt 2020-2021. The City Manager and DPW Foreman recommend using the MiDEAL program again this year and submitting the requisition for 250 tons for the early delivery and 300 tons for the seasonal backup.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-23 approving participation in the State Bid process for Winter Road Salt 2020-2021.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 on March 16, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$37,801.18 and payroll in the amount of \$214,568.90 for a total of \$252,370.08. Purchase orders to Resco in the amount of \$9,590.00 for a transformer for the Sparrow Development and Resco in the amount of \$33,752.00 for kerite wire were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the City will continue to monitor circumstances and evaluate whether or not the Annual Cleanup Day should be moved to a later date.

City Manager Gorman noted that Ionia County Central Dispatch began its seasonal testing of the tornado sirens. The tornado sirens are tested April through October at noon on the first Saturday of each month unless threatening weather is present.

City Manager Gorman extended his appreciation to emergency personnel for their efforts and sacrifices at this time.

City Manager Gorman also thanked The Beacon for their continued coverage of events in the City of Portland.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and DDA Director ConnerWellman provided information and available resources for local businesses struggling during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mayor Barnes encouraged residents to support local businesses if they are able to.

Mayor Barnes further encouraged residents of Portland to maintain good common sense and to respect the social distancing suggestions.

Mayor Barnes recognized the passing of Al Kaline, of the Detroit Tigers, today. Al Kaline represents a big part of good times and is a big part of many people's memories.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk