

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 4, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting ID# 943 2830 0936

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; Finance Officer Tolan; City Clerk Miller

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Robert Lathers of The 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 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 stated that City staff have been working in "teams" for several weeks and work is piling up. The DPW, Electric Department, and Wastewater Department staff have decided to come back at full staff levels today under the Emergency Preparedness Plan. All guidelines outlined in the Executive Order and safety precautions will be followed. City Manager Gorman stated that he will continue to monitor the situation.

City Hall staff is going to continue working the staggered team schedule for a while longer.

The Bridge Street Realignment project is moving along very rapidly. Construction crews encountered a sewer issue with old infrastructure. City crews along with the Cook Brothers Excavating were able to assess and repair the situation quickly.

The Safe Routes to School Project, the Grand River Avenue Improvement Project, and the Grand River Avenue Bridge Project will all be let for bids in July.

The Sparrow Development Project and Taco Bell development are both ready to move forward sometime this summer.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at 7:12 P.M.

City Manager Gorman and Finance Officer Tolan presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget. The proposed budget is balanced with sacrifices from across the departments. Changes to proposed budget are anticipated as the expected revenue shortfalls as a result of COVID-19 are realized.

Mayor Barnes confirmed there were no comments received by the City Manager or City Clerk in regard to the proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget.

City Manager Gorman noted the wastewater and water rate studies that were conducted by Baker Tilly. They have recommended an 8% increase to the wastewater rates and a 15% increase to the water rates this year with smaller increases in the future in order to maintain the infrastructure and invest in necessary capital projects. When the proposed rates are compared to similarly sized communities the proposed water rate is still on the low side and the wastewater rate is in the middle.

Mayor Barnes stated that the proposed increases will allow the City to maintain the quality service it provides while keeping the water clean.

Finance Officer Tolan noted that the average household will see an approximate \$7.00 total increase.

There was continued discussion.

City Manager Gorman thanked City staff for all of their efforts to develop the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) proposed with the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. The CIP will be evaluated and updated as needed each year.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-28 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-28 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Capital Improvement Plan.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnson, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-29 to approve appropriations for work to be performed on the City's electrical system as recommended by the Board of Light and Power. Due to COVID-19, certain projects related to the City's electrical system have been delayed, but will soon resume based on staffing and scheduling. At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 28, 2020 the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend City Council approve up to \$100,000.00 for work and materials related to the City's electrical system.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 20-29 approving appropriations for work to be performed on the City's electrical system as recommended by the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, 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 April 20, 2020 and the Budget Workshop on April 22, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$89,346.41 and payroll in the amount of \$111,788.42 for a total of \$201,134.83. A purchase order to Visco in the amount of \$10,260.00 for street lights was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman thanked City staff for all of their work throughout this pandemic. He further noted the excellent job the Ambulance Department and emergency services are doing.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated the Portland Area Fire Authority will meet tomorrow evening. He will provide an update for Council at their next meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck further encouraged residents not to get upset by the opinions of others during these trying times. He encouraged everyone to do what is in their hearts.

City Manager Gorman noted that Granger Container did cancel the Clean Up day that was scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020. The City will communication with them about the possibility of rescheduling.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk