

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 15, 2020

City Council Chambers and

Via Zoom Meeting ID# 852 3922 9047

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

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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

Under Public Comment, Mayor Barnes noted the City of Portland is emerging from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and that Portland City Council meetings are intended to be attended in person. If Zoom is used in the future it will be for viewing purposes only.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman further noted the City of Portland does not have the equipment to dedicate to Zoom meetings for all meetings going forward.

The City Hall lobby was opened last week. The Kent St. entrance has not been opened yet in order to limit access to the building.

The City continues to use the Work Share Program for some City employees to save money on wages in anticipation of revenue shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will likely be used through July 25, 2020.

City Manager Gorman noted that all of the City parks are fully opened to the public. He encouraged residents to appropriately social distance.

The public notice accepting bids for the surplus property at Cherry Hill Estates will be published within the next week or two.

City Manager Gorman provided development updates on the many projects happening in Portland this Summer.

The Portland Arts Council was not planning to host Thursdays on the Grand this summer so DDA Director ConnerWellman has planned five dates this summer called the Sounds of Summer which will include a variety of music at the Band Shell. The first event will be held this Thursday, June 18, 2020.

City Manager Gorman announced that after 30 years of service to the City of Portland, Ambulance Director Phil Gensterblum will be retiring at the end of July. The City will be evaluating how to replace his position and how code enforcement will be handled.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities. Director ConnerWellman provided updates on business and property in the DDA District and other projects, recent activities, and community events. Beerfest on the Bridge 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She further provided more information on the Sounds of Summer concert series.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-42 to approve a permit for a firework display at Bogue Flats on July 3, 2020. City Manager Gorman stated that earlier this year (prior to COVID-19) the Chamber of Commerce disbanded but planned to still hold the fireworks but not the parade in hopes that another organization would take over both events going forward. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic City Manager Gorman spoke with the City's legal counsel to get their opinion on holding the fireworks. Because of the large venue and many vantage points throughout the City safe social distancing is possible.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-42 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a firework display at Bogue Flats Recreation Area.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-43 to approve financing of a 2017 Tymco 600 street sweeper for the Department of Public Works. The City will take possession of the new street sweeper around July 6, 2020.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, so approve Resolution 20-43 approving the financing of a 2017 Tymco 600 street sweeper for the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-44 to revise Council Policy 76-7 to clarify the shut off process and update payment arrangement procedures.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-44 to revise Council Policy 76-7 concerning utility billing procedures.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-45 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Finance Director Tolan has reviewed current fund balances and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and recommends the proposed budget amendments be approved.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-45 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-46 to confirm various appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-46 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on June 1, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$196,347.94 and payroll in the amount of \$114,294.79 for a total of \$310,642.73. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman recognized the recent passing of Joe Shaltry, a member of the Portland Fire Department, after a long battle with cancer. He was a great man with a great family. City Manager stated that he is sending his thoughts and prayers.

City Manager Gorman shared a photo of City crews hanging the "Congratulations Graduates" banner at the railroad pedestrian bridge last week, which proved to be an engineering challenge. The banner was a great tribute and community effort to recognize the 2020 graduates of both Portland High School and Portland St. Patrick that have missed so much due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the VFW and American Legion will be opening soon.

Mayor Barnes notes that yesterday was Flag Day and was a beautiful day to recognize the American flag.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk