

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, July 6, 2020

City Council Chambers and

Viewable Via Zoom Meeting ID# 865 5269 0118

Present: Mayor Barnes, Council Member Fitzsimmons, Johnston and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Ambulance Director Gensterblum

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck

Guests: Brian Calley, President of the Small Business Association of Michigan and former Lt. Governor; Sheriff Charlie Noll; Miranda Sharp; Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; Kathy Burns; Larry Tygesen; Family and Friends of Ambulance Director Gensterblum; Staff of the Portland Ambulance Department; Bob Lathers of The Beacon; Evan Sasiela of the Sentinel Standard via Zoom

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

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Proposed Agenda revised to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck and Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Sheriff Charlie Noll introduced himself and provided his background and professional history. He noted his accomplishments as Undersheriff and Sheriff of Ionia County. He asked for the community's support during the upcoming Primary Election on August 4, 2020.

Brian Calley, President of the Small Business Association of Michigan and former Lt. Governor, expressed his reasons for supporting Sheriff Noll on the August 4, 2020 Primary ballot.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that at the June 15, 2020 meeting the City Council approved a fireworks permit for the Chamber of Commerce to hold a fireworks display on July 3, 2020 in celebration of the 4th of July. He provided background information on the process and concerns expressed by the Ionia County Prosecutor Kyle Butler and State of Michigan Attorney General's office. The Chamber of Commerce made the decision to cancel the fireworks display.

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

Council Member Fitzsimmons arrived at 7:16 P.M.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented a proclamation to Philip J. Gensterblum recognizing his retirement after 31 years of service to the Portland Ambulance Department.

City Manager Gorman also expressed his sentiments to Ambulance Director Gensterblum.

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.

Under New Business, the Council held the 1st Reading of Ordinance 67B to amend Section 6-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland to add the Portland Police Department as an enforcement agency along with the Ionia Council Animal Control Officer for enforcement of the Animals Ordinance.

The Council considered Resolution 20-47 to approve the MPPA Risk Management and Hedge Policy as recommended by the Board of Light and Power. At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 30, 2020, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the City Council approve this policy.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-47 approving the MPPA Risk Management and Hedge Policy as recommended by the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-48 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-48 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

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 15, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$109,187.08 and payroll in the amount of \$91,110.91 for a total of \$200,297.99. Purchase orders to SLC Meter in the amount of \$9,000.00 for Beacon Meter

Reading Software and to Off and Running Painting in the amount of \$20,000.00 for down payment by the DDA for painting of the boardwalk railing were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents to keep grass clippings out of the curb in order to protect the City's storm water system.

City Clerk Miller provided information on the upcoming Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fitzsimmons commended Ambulance Director Gensterblum for his work and dedication to the community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk