

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 3, 2020

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

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

Guests: Dana Hengesbach and Family; Kathy Parsons; Bob Lathers of The Beacon

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman introduced new Ambulance Director Zach Waltersdorf.

City Manager Gorman reported that the Small Urban Project on Grand River Avenue from Cutler Rd. to Rowe Ave. is underway. The project is expected to be completed in mid-September.

The City applied for the First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program (FRHPPP) to reimburse qualifying first responder pay premiums who performed hazardous work related to COVID-19.

The City had been participating in the State's Workshare Program since April which allowed employers to furlough employees by working reduced hours. The City realized significant savings through this program while keeping employees whole. This program ended on July 24, 2020.

The bid letting for the Grand River Avenue Bridge Project was held in July via MDOT's local bridge program. Construction is expected to begin sometime this month.

The Safe Routes to School bid letting is expected to take place soon with construction expected to begin in Spring 2021.

After stalling during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPP Fiber Project has resumed. The results of the study should be available soon.

City Clerk Miller provided an update and information on the Primary Election to be held tomorrow, Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented a Certificate of Recognition to Dana Hengesbach in appreciation of her time spent as a volunteer to the DDA through the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

City Manager Gorman and Council Member Johnston also expressed their appreciation for all of her services to the DDA over the past two years.

Ms. Hengesbach provided information on what she has accomplished during her time serving the DDA and the City of Portland.

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 considered Resolution 20-50 to approve the purchase of three vault interrupters in the amount of \$52,188.00 as recommended by the Board of Light and Power at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2020.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-50 approving the purchase of vault interrupters as recommended by the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 July 20, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$69,337.21 and payroll in the amount of \$98,430.09 for a total of \$167,767.30. Purchase orders to BS&A Software in the amount of \$5,084.00 for annual software services and support and Peerless Midwest Inc. in the amount of \$36,565.00 for repair and cleaning of well no. 7 were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There were no City Manager comments.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes stated that the fundraiser for the Portland Area Fire Authority held at the CreeMee this past weekend went very well. There was good community participation.

The vintage baseball game will be held in Portland on August 28, 2020.

The community had the opportunity to honor Michigan State Police Trooper Caleb Starr, who recently passed away after he was injured by a drunk driver when he was on duty, as his body was transported from Grand Rapids to Lansing.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

James E. Barnes, Mayor

---

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk