

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 8, 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; Police Chief Thomas; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Alyssa Kenyon & Brad Koester of NRTC; Steve & Sheila Pulling; Andy & Allison Pulling & 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 Stephen D. Pulling.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the East Grand River Avenue Road Project has been substantially completed on schedule. Restoration and cleanup will happen soon.

The Grand River Avenue Bridge Project is moving along well.

The City will accept bids for the surplus property at Cherry Hill Estates through Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 3:00 P.M. This property is part of the existing condominium site.

Smoke testing of the sewer system will take place this week.

The Brook has completed construction of its facility and is now taking residents.

A new guardrail was recently installed within 48 hours of it being reported damaged on Elm St. between Bridge St. and James St.

City Manager Gorman commented that Tina Robertson is a new face at City Hall. She is filling a temporary, part-time position at the front desk to help fill staffing needs.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented a proclamation to Stephen D. Pulling on his retirement after 20 years of service to the City of Portland.

Alyssa Kenyon and Brad Koester of NRTC presented the EPP (Executable Project Plan) Feasibility Study exploring the possibility of bringing broadband internet service to the City of Portland.

There was discussion.

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 20-54 to approve a mill & fill project by McKearney Asphalt & Sealing, Inc. in the amount of \$30,500.00. The project will include improvements to James Street between E. Grand River Ave. and Elm St.; Grant St. between E. Grand River Ave. and James St.; and Bridge St. between Kent St. and Maple St.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 20-54 approving mill & fill road work to be performed by McKearney Asphalt & Sealing, Inc.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-55 to approve preventative maintenance and chip sealing work to be performed by Snyder Asphalt in the amount of \$38, 250.00. The project will include improvements to Center St. between Grape St. and Quarterline St.; Albro St. between Grand River Ave. and Center St.; Church St. between Grand River Ave. and Center St.; and West St. between Grand River Ave. and Center St.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-55 approving preventative maintenance and chip sealing road work to be performed by Snyder Asphalt.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

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 August 17, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$99,499.20 and payroll in the amount of \$220,939.03 for a total of \$320,438.23. A purchase order to Toms' Food Center in the amount of \$10,000.00 for an Energy Optimization rebate was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

City Manager Gorman had no comments.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the job well done to everyone on the recent road project.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also reminded residents to be aware and to take personal responsibility in dealing with COVID-19.

Council Member Fitzsimmons commented that the chip seal projects are going to look great when they are completed and will be a good way to address a problem in the short-term as the long-term project is very expensive.

Council Member Johnston commended Portland Public Schools Superintendent Will Heath and all of the staff at Portland Public Schools and St. Patrick Schools in how they are handling the COVID-19 situation.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk