

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, September 21, 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

Guests: 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.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that no bids were received on the surplus property owned by the City at Cherry Hill Estates. He stated that a new notice will be published with a new deadline to received bids.

The City did receive reimbursement of \$17,600.00 through the Federal Cares Act for ½ of the hazard pay disbursed in April and May 2020. There were more reimbursement requests than anticipated so ½ of the request was reimbursed.

The Grand River Avenue Bridge Project is on schedule, if not a little ahead of schedule. The project is moving along very well.

City crews have recently been working on the maintenance of the River Trail. At this time, they are focusing on the area along Market St. and Thompson Field.

The chip seal process in the area around St. Patrick Church that was approved by City Council at its last meeting was started this past Saturday. The fog sealant will be applied this coming Saturday, September 26, 2020.

The Taco Bell and Sparrow Health projects are both moving along nicely.

City Manager Gorman noted that the new welcome sign will be placed soon on E. Grand River Ave. near the exit ramp from I-96. He is currently working with engineers on placement of the sign.

City Manager Gorman noted that for the past several years Electric Superintendent Mike Hyland has also been serving as the Director of Public Works which manages the Department of Public Works as well as the Water and Wastewater Departments. City Manager Gorman further noted that he will be looking to separate those positions again in the near future and name a Director of Public Works.

The City continues to work with the DDA to finalize the Toan Park Improvement/Splash Pad Project plans. This project is included in the City's Master Plan as well as the DDA TIF Plan. The project will come to City Council for final approval after it goes through the DDA board approval process.

City Manager Gorman noted he is working with Finance Director Tolan to evaluate financing options for a potential fiber optic project.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented the Constitution Week 2020 Proclamation.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-56 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-56 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$149,124.95 and payroll in the amount of \$103,543.54 for a total of \$252,668.49. Purchase orders to Nashville Construction in the amount of \$5,245.00 for Elm St. Guardrail repair and replacement, Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$7,500.00 for Wellhead Protection Plan Update and new well evaluation; United States Geological Survey in the amount of \$7,850.00 for 2019/2020 Streamgaging; Nutrigro Environmental Solutions in the amount of \$11,310.00 for hauling and biosolids application; Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$23,904.75 for the Grand River Avenue Small Urban Project Engineering Services; and the State of Michigan in the amount of \$37,311.31 for contractual services for the Grand River Avenue Small Urban Project were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Gorman comments, City Manager Gorman noted that City crews continue with the hydrant flushing process this week. He reminded residents to let their water run until clear as this process sometimes causes rusty water.

City Manager Gorman stated that the leaf removal process will be soon be underway and to rake their leaves to the curb lawn.

City Manager Gorman further stated that he anticipates Halloween will happen as normal. The City will pass on any recommendations from the Ionia County Health Department.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes stated that the Car Cruise that was held this past Friday, September 18, 2020 was a great event. It was very well attended.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk