

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 5, 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: Brian Rice of Fleis & VandenBrink; 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Proposed Agenda with the removal of the Downtown Report by DDA Director ConnerWellman due to her inability to attend the meeting.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Caroline Heckman presented information on the Jacob's Ladder Foundation created by she and her husband after the death of their newborn son. Through their fundraising efforts over \$15,000.00 has been donated by the community for placement of a columbarium at the Portland Cemetery. The Jacob's Ladder Foundation will also provide free services for families who suffer miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss to bury and honor their children.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court that all executive orders issued by Governor Whitmer after April 30, 2020 are unconstitutional. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has subsequently issued orders pertaining to masks, gatherings, and sports.

The City was notified late last week that it will receive the requested funding for the 2019 ice jam/flooding emergency declaration. The funding was included in the legislature's budget which was approved and signed by the Governor.

After 52 years of service to the City of Portland Electric Department, Mike Hyland has announced his retirement effective January 1, 2021.

The Grand River Avenue Bridge Project is moving along very well.

Under Presentations, Brian Rice of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an update on the City of Portland Wellhead Protection Program.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 20-57 to approve the purchase of a 2021 GMC Sierra 2500 HD truck through the MiDeal program in amount of \$32,357.65 and \$6,694.99 to outfit the truck.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-57 approving the purchase of a 2021 GMC Sierra truck for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council approved Resolution 20-58 to approve a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House, sponsored by the Friends of the Red Mill, at the Red Mill.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-58 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House at the Red Mill.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council approved Resolution 20-59 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Dana Hengesbach to the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-59 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 21, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$237,731.65 and payroll in the amount of \$118,360.16 for a total of \$356,091.81. A purchase order to the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in the amount of \$14,250.00 for 2021 safety dues was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Gorman comments, City Manager Gorman noted the DDA continues to work on renderings for improvements to Toan Park.

The City is in the process of hiring a new mechanic for the Department of Public Works.

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

There were no Council Comments.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk