

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 19, 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Proposed Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that with the retirement of Electric Superintendent Mike Hyland the City has contracted with Brent Henry. Mr. Henry recently retired from the Michigan Public Power Agency after 18 years of service. He will assist with the assessment of the Electric Department and hiring a new Electric Superintendent.

Over the next several weeks there will be frequent, short-lived power outages as the Electric Department installs 24 fault interrupters throughout the system. This will improve the ability to control future power outages by isolating the lack of power to a certain area.

The Grand River Avenue Bridge Improvement Project is in the home stretch. The bridge should be opened to full traffic by October 30th.

The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 but due to a lack of quorum they were unable to hold the meeting. The agenda included a planned review of the Master Plan. The review will be rescheduled for their November meeting.

City crews recently installed new wayfinding signs for Portland Public Schools.

The Sparrow and Taco Bell projects are both moving along well.

Under Presentations, 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 20-60 to approve a Clear Rate Communications for the ISDN PRI phone lines at City Hall. The City's VOIP phone system is currently served by ISDN PRI phone lines with Clear Rate in partnership with Portland Public Schools.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-60 approving a contract with Clear Rate Communications for the ISDN PRI phone lines at City Hall.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-61 to waive penalties for non-filing of Property Transfer Affidavits under MCL 211.27b.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 20-61 to waive penalties for non-filing of Property Transfer Affidavits under MCL 211.27b.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Johnston supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on October 5, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$198,386.57 and payroll in the amount of \$102,018.96 for a total of \$300,405.53. Two purchase orders to Resco in the amounts of \$8,010.00 and \$22,465.00 for transformers were also included.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Gorman comments, City Manager Gorman stated that the leaf removal process is underway. Residents should rake their leaves to the curb lawn as City crews are out daily picking up leaves.

Trick-or-treating will be held on Halloween, October 31, 2020 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. Ionia County Central Dispatch will sound the sirens to start and end trick-or-treating. City Manager Gorman further referred residents to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for COVID safety guidelines.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents of the 2-hour parking limitations on the 100 and 200 blocks of Kent Street and the 100 blocks of East and West Bridge Street.

City Manager Gorman stated how proud he is of the City staff and the community has a whole for their efforts during this unusual year.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents that the General Election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck discourages residents from taking/stealing signs from the yards of others. He further recognized the passing of Dan Spitzley, a fellow member of the VFW.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk