

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 2, 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: Jon Moxey 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Proposed Agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman commended City Clerk Miller and Precinct Chair Noreen Logel for their work in preparing for tomorrow's General Election.

Over the past couple of weeks, the Electric Department has worked to complete the installation of 24 fault interrupters throughout the system. That last part of the project was completed in the early morning hours on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The process went very smoothly.

City Clerk Miller introduced Ionia County Clerk Greg Geiger and thanked him for his assistance in preparations for the election and further provided Election Day information.

The Grand River Avenue Bridge was reopened today and the preliminary walk through was held.

The new community entrance sign was installed on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The sign was built and installed by Valley City Sign. City Manager Gorman extended his thanks to the DPW and Electric Department for their assistance with the installation.

The mill & fill projects on Bridge Street between Kent St. and Maple St., the James Street hill and the Grant Street hills have been completed and look great.

City Manager Gorman reported that he has been contacted by Saddleback BBQ, which has two locations in the Lansing area. There have been preliminary discussions of them opening a location in Portland.

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 20-62 to approve the DDA's Splash Pad and William Toan Park Improvement Project with an estimated construction cost of \$491,000.00 as well as Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide engineering services in the amount of \$55,000.00.

City Manager Gorman presented information on the proposed Splash Pad and William Toan Park Improvement Project.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink provided information on the proposed conceptual design for William Toan Park. With approval of the proposed resolution they will move forward with finalizing the plans for bid letting. The park will be transformed to a "destination park".

City Manager Gorman noted the current play structure that was donated by the Nichols family in memory of their son be will relocated within the park. The Wind Song art piece that was donated by the Pline family will be relocated to Two Rivers Park.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 20-62 approving the DDA's Splash Pad and William Toan Park Improvement Project and Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide engineering services.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-63 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide construction engineering services in the amount of \$98,800.00 for the Safe Routes to School Project.

Mr. Moxey presented information on the upcoming Safe Routes to School project. Construction is expected to begin Spring of 2021.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 20-63 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide construction engineering services for the Safe Routes to School Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 20-64 to approve a capacity purchase in an amount not to exceed \$194,400.00 to meet a portion of its future load requirements for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency. At its meeting on October 27, 2020, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend that Council approve this capacity purchase.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 20-64 approving a capacity purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, 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 October 19, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$181,462.86 and payroll in the amount of \$115,046.66 for a total of \$296,509.52. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$13,634.38 for construction administration for the Grand River Small Urban Project, the State of Michigan in the amount of \$14,427.09 for payment on the Grand River Small Urban Project, and Resco in the amount of \$17,396.03 for a MVI Vault Interrupter were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Gorman comments, City Manager Gorman noted that Halloween was a beautiful evening and a great success!

City Manager Gorman presented the cover of the most recent issue of Currents magazine, which highlights the City of Portland and its electrical system.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that the No Parking Ban from 2:00 – 6:00 A.M. went into effect November 1<sup>st</sup> and will remain through April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted how great the Grand River Avenue Bridge Project looks and that the maintenance done as part of the project will help maintain the integrity of the bridge long into the future. He further reminded residents to vote tomorrow and with the increase in COVID cases to stay safe and use common sense.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents to vote and noted how fortunate Portland is to have a good election process.

City Manager Gorman thanked the local businesses; in particular, ConfluxCity Brewing Company and Fabiano's for their flexibility and patience throughout the Grand River Avenue Bridge Project.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

James E. Barnes, Mayor

---

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk