

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 16, 2020

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 898 8438 5230

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller

Present Via Zoom: Council Members Johnston and Sheehan

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Barnes noted that Council Members Johnston and Sheehan are attending the meeting tonight from home via Zoom.

Mayor Barnes further noted that Council Member Fitzsimmons was unable to attend the meeting tonight and should be excused.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Proposed Agenda with the excusal of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the new shut down order instituted by Governor Whitmer will be in place on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 through December 8, 2020. The legislature has previously amended the Open Meetings Act to allow for remote meetings, as needed. This allows for Council Members to join the meeting remotely as they are doing tonight.

City Manager Gorman commended City Clerk Miller on the smooth, efficient election in Portland on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

City Clerk Miller noted that everything went very well. The turnout for this election was 76% which is a bit of an increase from 72% in 2016.

City Manager Gorman noted that Portland City was the first jurisdiction to report to Ionia County on election night.

City Manager Gorman noted that the lobby at City Hall will be closed today until further notice to protect residents and staff. He further commended City Staff and in particular the Ambulance Department for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Electric Department continues to work on hiring a replacement for Mike Hyland on his retirement. His last day is expected to be December 9, 2020.

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for November 12, 2020 was cancelled due to illness; not COVID related.

There is some potential for new development in Portland; a new restaurant to be located in the old PFCU drive thru and an auto parts store next to Bill's Party Store.

The preconstruction meeting for the Safe Routes to School project will be held November 18, 2020.

City Manager Gorman noted that the City should hear the results of its grant application for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge soon.

There were no Presentations.

There was no New Business.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on November 2, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$74,732.00 and payroll in the amount of \$151,240.29 for a total of \$225,972.29. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager comments, City Manager Gorman noted the DPW will continue to collect leaves that residents rake to the curb.

He further noted that the ribbon cutting for the 2Rivers Market Place will be held Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the Portland Area Fire Authority continues to move forward with budget discussions for the upcoming Fiscal Year. He

also noted that due to COVID-19 fire training has been delayed for this month to prevent gathering in groups.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk