

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 4, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 878 7421 3000

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Present Via Zoom: None

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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 noted Taco Bell opened on December 30, 2020. It was very busy and created some traffic backups onto Grand River Ave. This issue should correct itself as time goes on.

The City submitted a grant application through Fleis & VandenBrink for the Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Program. This program is similar to the Stormwater, Asset Management & Wastewater (SAW) Project that the City has been a part of. The DWAM Program would provide funding through EGLE for water quality initiatives that will allow for low interest financing, principal forgiveness and other mechanisms to make improvements in the future.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Electric Department has been “cleaning house” under the direction of Acting Electric Superintendent Brent Henry. Mr. Henry has also been working diligently on the potential fiber project.

DPW Superintendent Gensterblum has done an excellent job; especially with the most recent snowfall.

Both the DPW and Electric Department have been retooling some of their processes.

The City Council will hold its Goal Setting Session at the end of January to begin the budget process for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

Planning for the Safe Routes to School project is taking place; especially for the new traffic light that will be installed at Grand River Ave. and West St.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-01 to authorize the City Manager to begin the process to fill the City Assessor position as the current Assessor plans to retire this Spring.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-01 authorizing and approving the City Manager to begin the process to fill the City Assessor position.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-02 to approve the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of the Streamgaging Station located at the hydroelectric plant which is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The City's FERC license requires it to jointly fund the Streamgaging Station with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Center Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, has sent a new agreement for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 at a cost of \$7,850.00.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-02 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on December 21, 2020, payment of invoices in the amount of \$43,501.27 and payroll in the amount of \$99,311.02 for a total of \$142,812.29. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents to shovel their sidewalks within 10 hours of the cessation of a snowfall event.

City Manager Gorman also noted that several requests have been to make donations of benches to be placed along the River Trail and parks in memory of individuals. He stated the City has not accepted bench donations for quite some time due to the quantity that have already been donated. The number of benches creates maintenance issues for the Parks Department. The Parks and Recreation Board is looking at implementing a tree donation program.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he is looking forward to a strong 2021.

There was a discussion regarding snow removal.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnson, 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