

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 18, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 857 5243 5924

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

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 reported he, Finance Officer Tolan, and representatives of Fleis & VandenBrink have been discussing financing options for Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements to be included in the next Fiscal Year.

The City Council Goal Session for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 will be held at the end of the month. Goals and objectives from the Department Heads will be provided to the Council.

The Portland Area Fire Authority has submitted its Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget.

The City continues to evaluate utility rates for water, wastewater and electric services. Current electric rates are approximately 30% lower than competitors.

City Manager Gorman reported that Portland did not receive funding this round from MDOT for the Divine Hwy. Bridge Replacement Project. The City will apply in the next round of funding. Load restrictions for the bridge will likely be increased. The bridge is routinely evaluated by engineers and remains safe for travel.

New street signs for the W. Grand River Ave. and West St. intersection were presented. The current signs will be replaced as part of the Safe Routes to School program.

The issue with traffic backing up into Grand River Ave. at Taco Bell seems to have resolved itself after the initial opening days.

The Toan Park Improvement Project is currently in the design phase.

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 21-03 to approve an Advanced Life Support, Level 2 fee increase to \$800.00 for the Ambulance Department.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-03 approving an ALS2 fee increase for the Ambulance Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 4, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$121,129.58 and payroll in the amount of \$183,900.65 for a total of \$305,030.23. There was a purchase order in the amount of \$9,846.79 to replace leveling cables included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager comments, City Manager Gorman stated the Police Department has picked up some of the Code Enforcement responsibilities for removal of snow and mowing. He further stated that there have been questions from the community about removing snow from the River Trail. The DPW removes snow in a very timely manner after a snow event and then they remove snow from the parking lots and sidewalks under its responsibility. There has been some consideration given to clearing a portion of the River Trail but currently there are not enough resources to do so.

City Manager Gorman congratulated St. Patricks football team on their excellent football season and finishing as the runner up in the State in the 8-man division.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded everyone that today is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and encouraged everyone to remember what he stood for.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None  
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk