

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, February 1, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 896 8883 3782

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

Present Via Zoom: None

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Brian Grapentien

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Proposed Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Brian Grapentien resigned his position with the Planning Commission after 16 years of service. He has served the past 10 years as Chair. He thanked the Council for allowing him to serve stating that he has enjoyed his time.

Mayor Barnes thanked Mr. Grapentien for his service to the City of Portland and wished him the best of luck in the future.

City Manager Gorman also thanked Mr. Grapentien for his service and for leading the Planning Commission so well while following the vision outlined for the City of Portland.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that Council held their annual Goal Setting Session last week to discuss their priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The focus will continue to be on infrastructure, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Electric Department, road projects and repairs to the River Trail.

City Manager Gorman further noted despite the challenges in 2020 with COVID the City had many accomplishments including the Bridge Street Realignment Project, the Grand River Avenue Small Urban Project, repairs to the Grand River Avenue Bridge, multiple mill and fill projects, a new street sweeper, heart monitors for the Ambulance Department, continued efforts

for the revitalization of Toan Park, and new developments in Portland including The Brook, Taco Bell, and Sparrow.

Council Member Fitzsimmons arrived at 7:10 P.M.

City Manager Gorman reported that the City continues to work with its engineers on the design phase of the Toan Park Improvement Project.

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. She also presented information on planning and fundraising ideas for the Toan Park Improvement Project.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-04 to approve the purchase and installation of a flatbed on the former street sweeper truck in the amount of \$10,433.00 through the State of Michigan's MiDeal program. The City previously purchased a street sweeper to replace the 1999 Freightliner truck. While the equipment on the 1999 truck was in disrepair, the truck itself remains in good condition with only 24,000 miles.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-04 approving the purchased and installation of a flatbed on the former street sweeper truck for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-05 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Pam Huber to the Portland District Library Board.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-05 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

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 January 18, 2021 and the Goal Session held on January 28, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$59,042.35 and payroll in the amount of \$103,446.01 for a total of \$162,488.36. 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 reassured the public that the ice in the Grand River along with the water level is being monitored by several sources in an effort to identify any potential ice jam and/or flooding.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes read the Special Tribute presented to City Clerk Miller by Julie Calley, State Representative for the 87th District, acknowledging her work on the unprecedented 2020 election cycle.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that the VFW is going to begin opening to the veterans after being closed due to COVID.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also cautioned residents to beware of the surge of advertisements for online gaming.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk