

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 827 0618 7466

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

Absent: Council Member Sheehan

Present Via Zoom: Joseph Benjamin; Call in 517-648-6595

Guests: Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink

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 Revised Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Sheehan.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman thanked the DPW for their hard work in clearing the streets from last night's heavy snowfall.

The Planning Commission met on February 10, 2021 to review the Master Plan as required every five years by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. City Manager Gorman noted that he hopes to budget for an update of the Zoning Ordinance in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget with an update to the Master Plan the following fiscal year.

City Manager Gorman, Finance Director Tolan, and Ambulance Director Waltersdorf held the annual Ambulance meeting for the participating jurisdictions last week to discuss updates, funding and other related business.

The Board of Light and Power is busy working with NRTC on the fiber project; which is currently in the design phase. There is a significant lead time in obtaining the fiber so ordering will begin soon.

Under the direction of MISA and MPPA the Electric Department has been running the diesel generators today and likely tomorrow.

Construction on the Safe Routes to School project will begin this Spring.

Registration will begin soon for spring sports programs through the Recreation Department. Recreation programs have been paused for quite some time due to COVID.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-06 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal in the amount of \$19,800.00 to provide engineering services for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan for the Wastewater Department.

Mr. Moxey provided information related to the project.

Mr. Moxey also provided information on the Riverfront Improvement Project at Toan Park.

There was discussion.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-06 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide engineering services for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan for the Wastewater Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-07 to approve the Board of Light and Power joining the Generator Owner's Service Committee through the Michigan Public Power Agency. This committee was created as a billing mechanism to charge only those MPPA members that have generation to meet certain required MISO obligations. The Acting Electric Superintendent recommends approval to join the committee, contingent on approval by the Board of Light and Power at its regular meeting on February 23, 2021.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-07 approving the Board of Light and Power (BLP) to join the Service Committee through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) contingent upon the approval of the BLP.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan
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 February 1, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$54,352.47 and payroll in the amount of \$114,080.53 for a total of \$168,433.00. Purchase orders to Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$5,808.00 for 2021 membership dues, and Newkirk Electric in the amount of \$12,317.30 for installation of digital meters at the Diesel Plant were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Under City Manager comments, City Manager Gorman expressed his concern that there are still critical infrastructure employees that wish to receive the COVID vaccine that are unable to get it while individuals that have been working remotely for 9 months are receiving it.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Daddy Daughter Dance has been cancelled this year due to COVID.

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

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes expressed his appreciation to the DPW for their hard work and efforts to remove the 7” of snow received last night from the City streets.

He further thanked the Board of Light and Power for all of their efforts and expertise to avoid the issues with electric service that residents are experiencing in Texas with the most recent cold weather.

Mayor Barnes thanked the Ionia County Health Department for the smooth COVID vaccination process.

He also wishes for Kathy Parsons to get well soon.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the VFW is now open; following all of the same rules and requirements as bars.

Council Member Johnston noted the local scouts met at the Pelc family property for outdoor winter events and had a great time.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk