

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 15, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

And Via Zoom Meeting ID# 859 2142 5129

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: Finance Director Tolan

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Jon Moxey, Kyle Sutton, Elizabeth Girgen, Lauren Wittmann, and Sam Lipscomb of Fleis & VandenBrink

Guests Via Zoom: None

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

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There were no Public Comments.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that the odor across the City recently was coming from the Sunset Ridge mobile home park located in Portland Township. The top layer of their lagoons is thawing and the recent winds have been spreading the odor. City Manager Gorman stated that he has reached out to EGLE to make sure they are operating correctly.

The Safe Routes to School project is scheduled to kick off on Monday, March 29, 2021 with construction expected to last through July.

The Board of Light and Power is wrapping up its discussions with NRTC regarding a potential fiber project and moving towards the design/cost estimate phase. A recommendation will likely be made to contract with Phil Mudge, as recommended by Acting Superintendent Brent Henry based on his experience in the industry. Mr. Mudge is highly respected in the industry.

City Manager Gorman noted that he will likely have a recommendation to Council at the April 5, 2021 meeting for contractual service with the City of St. Johns to share services for a new City Assessor.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on the Local Bridge Program and design options for a potential Divine Highway Bridge project. Feedback from last year's application to the Local Bridge Program was that the cost of a bridge realignment is prohibitive. Design options include parallel construction and part width construction. This year the load restrictions on the Divine Hwy. Bridge will be increased.

There was discussion.

Council Member Fitzsimmons left the meeting at about 7:40 P.M.

Mr. Moxey stated that the SAW Project began in 2013 and will end at the end of March. The result of the project is a planning tool the City will add to its arsenal for continued maintenance and repairs to its infrastructure.

Kyle Sutton, Elizabeth Girgen, Lauren Wittmann, and Sam Lipscomb of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an overview and highlights of the SAW Project.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman noted that the electrical system will be integrated into the GIS portion of the SAW Project in the future.

Mr. Moxey thanked City staff for all of their assistance and support throughout the project.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-10 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-10 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-11 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-11 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-12 to approve increases to the fee schedule for the Ambulance Department. The various fees of the Ambulance Department have not been increased in several years and the current rates are insufficient for operations. City Manager Gorman and Ambulance Director Waltersdorf approve the proposed fee schedule.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-12 approving increases to the fee schedule for the Ambulance Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-13 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The Finance Director has reviewed current fund balances and expenditures and recommends the Council approve the proposed amendments.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-13 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-14 to appoint Council Member Johnston to the Planning Commission.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-14 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Abstention: Johnston

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 1, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$52,109.32 and payroll in the amount of

\$114,397.92 for a total of \$166,507.24. A purchase order to Newkirk Electric in the amount of \$107,400.00 for Viper reclosers was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager comments, City Manager Gorman noted the Planning Commission will begin evaluation of the Zoning Ordinance to determine what needs to be updated; specifically related to the property located at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave. They will also discuss the Rindlehaven property owned by Mayberry Homes as it may require some form of rezoning.

City Manager Gorman stated the Toan Park Revitalization Project will include a lot of change and activity. The DDA has been working with a local videographer on a promotional video for the project. The fundraising campaign will begin soon.

The Annual Clean-up Day will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the VFW will host a Fish Fry on Friday, March 19, 2021 and Friday, April 2, 2021.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also stated the Portland Area Fire Authority has invited Jim Valentine, Director of Ionia County 9-1-1, and Ionia County Commissioner Georgia Sharp to the next board meeting to provide information on the 9-1-1 Millage.

City Manager Gorman noted that he be on vacation the first week of April and will not be able to attend the April 5, 2021 Council Meeting.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk