

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 19, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

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

Absent: Council Member Johnston

Guests: City Residents Kathy Parsons, Brian Wohlscheid, Bryce Anderson

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

Mayor Barnes noted amendments to the Agenda to excuse Council Member Fitzsimmons from the April 5, 2021 meeting and Council Member Johnston from tonight's meeting.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Amended Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons; Johnston

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to excuse Council Member Fitzsimmons from the April 5, 2021 meeting and Council Member Johnston from tonight's meeting.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons; Johnston

Adopted

Under Public Comment, new City resident Bryce Anderson requested the City update its Ordinance to match recently updated guidelines by the DNR that allow bow hunting in urban areas in order to control the deer population.

There was discussion.

Under City Manager report, City Manager Gorman stated the Safe Routes to School Project is moving along very well. Work on Grand River Ave. is scheduled to begin mid-May.

The Toan Park Improvement Project will be going out to bid very soon.

The potential Fiber Project is moving into the design phase with a new contract approved with Total Technical Assurance Group at the April 5, 2021 meeting. Opportunities to partner with Homeworks Tri County will also be evaluated. When the design is complete the City will be able to get a true cost for a potential project.

The Public Hearing for the State Revolving Fund Clean Water Project will be held at the Council Meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Member Fitzsimmons arrived at 7:15 P.M.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities and noted that after 3 ½ weeks of fundraising for the Toan Park Improvement Project \$40,555 has been raised.

Mayor Barnes read the 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation.

Mayor Barnes stated that Homeworks Tri County has always been a great, trustworthy corporate partner. In 2018 the City approved their request to run utility lines through the City of Portland. Unfortunately, the City did not require them to follow its own practice of undergrounding electric service. When Homeworks Tri County ran their utility lines through the City the lines were strung on high poles which also required the cutting and trimming of several trees. Mayor Barnes requested that Homeworks Tri County underground the utilities if possible.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-19 to approve the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power at its meeting on March 30, 2021 to approve a Net Metering Agreement for solar usage by City residents that desire to install solar generating facilities to offset all or a portion of their electricity usage.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-19 approving the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power to approve a Net Metering Agreement for solar usage by City residents.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council approved Resolution 21-20 to approve a capacity purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency to meet a portion of its future load requirements for planning years 25/26, 26/27, and 27/28 by purchasing capacity not to exceed \$32,400 for the entire term. The Board of Light and Power met on March 30, 2021, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the approval of the capacity purchase to City Council.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-20 approving a capacity purchase for the Board of Light and Power through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None  
Absent: Johnston  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-21 to approve the lease/purchase of a new folding machine for City Hall operations to replace the current machine that is 16 years old and in disrepair.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-21 approving the lease/purchase of a new folding machine for City Hall operations.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Johnston  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-22 to approve the Ambulance Services Agreements with the various political subdivisions and the 21-22 Ambulance Care Plan Membership Agreement Form.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-22 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreements with Danby Township, Portland Township, Westphalia Township, Orange Township, Lyons Township, the Village of Westphalia, the Village of Pewamo, and Sebewa Township and approving the Care Plan Membership Agreement Form.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Johnston  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-23 to approve a permit for a fireworks display at the Bogue Flats Recreation Area on Saturday, July 3, 2021 to celebrate Independence Day.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-23 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Bogue Flats Recreation Area.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Johnston  
Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on April 5, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$71,990.89 and payroll in the amount of \$108,686.82 for a total of \$180,677.71. A purchase order to Eagle Enterprise in the amount of \$11,606.00 for repair of a Rivertrail railing due to ice jam/flooding damage was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None  
Absent: Johnston  
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the draft budget was provided to Council with their Council packet. He is pleased to propose another balanced budget. The budget process will be moved back a bit with approval of the budget to be presented on May 17, 2021.

The Community Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021. He further noted that due to COVID, DPW crews will not be able to assist in the unloading of vehicles and trailers.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated he attended the Ionia County Township Officers Association Quarterly Meeting. The main speaker was Anthony Meyaard, an expert on the subject of assessing who provided information on the updates being made.

He further noted that Jim Valentine, Director of Ionia County 9-1-1, gave a presentation on the \$2.85 surcharge. The surcharge will be used for health care costs and will not be going toward radio upgrades. A long-term plan for upgrades to 800 MHz radios is being established.

Council Member Fitzsimmons noted that the sidewalk improvements through the Safe Routes to School grant project are looking very nice. This is a great project for the City of Portland.

Mayor Barnes noted the Ambulance Emergency Care Plan enrollment period is May 1, 2021 through July 1, 2021 and provides a “peace of mind” for City residents.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk