

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 17, 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, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller, Finance Officer Tolan; Police Officer Smith

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Tim Krizov

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

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that improvements to Grand River Ave. as part of the Safe Routes to School Program have begun. Overall, the project is going very well. When school is closed for the summer the traffic signal at Grand River Ave. & West St. will be installed.

The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 to consider and discuss the potential rezoning of the Cutler Rd. property. There was also discussion of Mayberry Homes interest in building more homes at Rindlehaven. The current PUD would have to be amended.

The Sparrow development project is moving along well; they are hoping to be open later this summer.

City Manager Gorman presented photos of work completed by the Friends of the Red Mill and Leik Family creating a "lookout point" over the wildflower area at Bogue Flats.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented information on the Toan Park Revitalization Project and thanked the community for participating in the fundraising campaign. Over \$80,000 has been raised to date with \$15,000 in pledges expected to come in. The Fundraiser wrap party will be held May 26, 2021 from 4:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes also thanked everyone for their support of the project; the revitalized Toan Park will be a great addition to the community.

Jon Moxey and his team from Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Final Project Plan being proposed for improvements to the wastewater system. This is the first step toward the needed improvements that were evaluated as part of the SAW project.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plan and Collection System Improvements Project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) at 7:20 P.M.

The team from Fleis & VandenBrink presented the project plan to upgrade the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant facilities.

There were no public comments or questions.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked what the capacity of the plant after upgrades would be?

Mr. Benjamin explained that newer technologies would allow for more efficient processing and increased capacity. If a significant user were to require more growth at the plant media in the plant could easily be changed to accommodate the increases.

City Manager Gorman stated that the current equipment does not allow for expansion to the plant.

Mr. Moxey stated that new infrastructure would allow for more cost-effective expansion. The average cost to users to finance the project entirely through CWSRF is estimated at \$19.50 per month. Alternative grants and funding opportunities will be sought out to lower the cost to the users.

Mayor Barnes notes that this type of information and Public Hearing is good for everyone to be educated in order to understand potential rate increases. The City's current rates are lower than most in the area; this may be the reason the Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the condition that it is.

City Manager Gorman stated the City of Portland is not alone in this situation; many municipalities are facing similar circumstances.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that it would be great to take advantage of potential Federal funding.

Mr. Moxey stated that one of the reasons this process has been pushed along is so that this project is in the "pipeline" to be ready for possible funding opportunities.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 8:01 P.M.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the Budget Proposed for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at 8:02 P.M.

City Manager Gorman thanked the City Council for their guidance throughout the budget process. He stated his pleasure in presenting a balanced budget with a 32% Fund Balance. He further provided a brief overview of the proposed budget and its process.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Manager Gorman for his transparency and all of his work throughout the budget process.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck echoed his thanks to City Staff as well.

There were no public comments or questions.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 8:11 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading of Ordinance 101L to Amend Sections 40-214, 40-215, 40-216, 40-220, and 40-222 of Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland to revise electric rates based on the recent electric rate study.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to adopt Ordinance 101L to Amend Sections 40-214, 40-215, 40-216, 40-220, and 40-222 of Code of Ordinances of the City of Portland.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-27 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-27 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Capital Improvement Plan.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-28 to adopt the Final Project Plan for improvements to the Wastewater System.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-28 adopting a Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and designating an Authorized Project Representative.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-29 to approve the award of the Toan Park Revitalization Project to Katerberg Verhage.

City Manager Gorman thanked local resident and owner of Cooks Bros. Excavating, Keith Cook, for his effort on the bid submitted for the project. Even though his bid was high his efforts are appreciated.

Mr. Moxey stated that he was pleased to receive three bids at the bid opening last week. The proposal submitted for approval tonight works very well with the proposed project and the contractor has done this type of project before. Construction will begin in June or July and is expected to wrap up in September. He further stated how great it is to see so much support from the community for the project; this will be a fun project.

Mayor Barnes asked Mr. Moxey about the load restrictions that are placed on the Divine Hwy. Bridge.

Mr. Moxey stated that as a bridge ages and deteriorates the inspection schedule increases. The Divine Hwy. Bridge is now inspected annually and the load restrictions increase the further it deteriorates. The bridge currently has a 30–40-ton limit. Although the load restrictions are a detriment to many it does move the project up the scale in terms of receiving funding for its replacement.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-29 approving the award of the Toan Park Revitalization Project to Katerberg Verhage.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-30 to revise Council Policy 77-1 to revise Cemetery Rates. The revision includes a \$25.00 increase on purchases of deeds to burial rates and all burial services along with other minor revisions.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-30 to revise Council Policy 77-1 concerning Cemetery rates.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-31 to approve a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink, in the amount of \$12,000.00, to conduct a Water System Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Update as required by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

City Manager Gorman noted that the study provides guidance and addresses concerns related to terrorism and securing the water infrastructure.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-31 approving a proposal from Fleis & VandenBrink to conduct a Water System Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Update.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-32 to approve the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power to replace the Hydro Dam storage garage for the Electric Department. The current garage has fallen into disrepair and is in need of replacement. The Acting Superintendent sought bids and recommends the work be awarded to Shelby Construction in the amount of \$50,000.00. At its meeting on April 27, 2021, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the City Council approve replacing the storage garage in an amount not to exceed \$59,000.00.

City Manager Gorman noted the new building will be constructed where a building formerly used by the Arts Council was located. This will be a cold storage building.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-32 approving the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power to replace the Hydro Dam Storage Garage for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 3, 2021 and the Minutes of the Budget Workshop held on May 10, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$120,038.24 and payroll in the amount of \$101,107.17 for a total of \$221,145.41. Purchase orders to Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$6,500.00 to sandblast and paint 50 fire hydrants, Fence Consultants of West Michigan in the amount of \$6,928.00 to install a gate opener at the DPW complex, and Total Technical Assurance Group, Inc. in the amount of \$21,500.00 for consulting on the Broadband Development Project were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman thanked the City Council and the entire community for the great fundraising effort for the Toan Park Revitalization Project.

City Manager Gorman also reminded residents to mow their grass.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded everyone that the Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Mayor Barnes noted that the Fundraiser Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 4:00 – 8:00 P.M. at Toan Park and thanked the community for all of their efforts.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk