

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 7, 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, Police Chief Thomas, Ambulance Director Waltersdorf, DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Members of the Portland Ambulance Department

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

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 the Toan Park Revitalization Project is moving along very well. The fundraising campaign has been successfully finished and the preconstruction meeting was held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Construction is expected to begin mid-July with an approximate 2-month construction schedule.

The new traffic light at Grand River Ave. and West St. as part of the Safe Routes to School Project will be installed the week of June 14th, 2021.

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 to review a draft ordinance to address the zoning of the Cutler Rd. property. Once the zoning of the property is addressed the City will begin the process of marketing it.

Mayberry Homes has contacted the city about building more single-family homes at Rindlehaven. This will require an amendment to the current PUD. There has also been discussion with the City's zoning consultant about whether this property should be rezoned to R-2 rather than the PUD that is currently in place.

A mill/fill project will take place on Ionia Rd., Cross St., and Rowe Ave. on Thursday, June 17, 2021 and Friday, June 18, 2021 in order to improve the conditions of the roads.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes read a proclamation to the Ambulance Department recognizing their over 50 years of service to the Portland community.

The Council and Ambulance Department briefly stepped outside to take a photo with an ambulance to commemorate the occasion.

DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities and presented information on the Toan Park Revitalization Project. She thanked the community for participating in the fundraising campaign. Fundraising is currently at \$117,530.00 with pledges in that total \$140,000.00 plus \$20,000 more “in kind” donations. The Fundraiser wrap party was held May 26, 2021 and was an enjoyable event that resulted in raising significant funds.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-33 to approve the Board of Light and Power’s (BLP) recommendation to join the Renewable Resource Service Committee through the Michigan Public Power Agency which is charged with sourcing, evaluation, and negotiation of renewable power purchases for its members. At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2021, the BLP passed the recommendation to Council.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-33 approving the Board of Light and Power’s (BLP) recommendation to join the Renewable Resource Service Committee through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-34 to approve the Michigan Public Power Agency’s (MPPA) recommendation to authorize the Member Authorized Representative to sign two Energy Services Project Power Purchase Commitment Authorizations for solar power. One facility is in Calhoun County and the other is in Hart Township. At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2021, the BLP passed the recommendation to Council.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-34 approving the Michigan Public Power Agency’s (MPPA) recommendation to approve, authorize, and direct the Member Authorized Representative to sign two Energy Services Project Power Purchase Commitment Authorizations for solar power.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-35 to approve the Revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements for Benefit Programs HA/HB/HC. The City has reformed its pension plan for all employees hired after July 1, 2010 so that new hires will be placed in a MERS Hybrid Pension with a 1% Defined Benefit (DB) pension multiplier that cannot be increased and a Defined Contribution portion that requires new hires to contribute 3% of their wages to the Defined Contribution (DC) pension portion. The City’s DB and DC combined pension contribution is

capped at 7% and if the DB portion costs less than 7%, then the City will contribute the difference to the employees DC portion.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-35 approving the Revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB/HC) and approving, authorizing, and directing the City Manager to sign same.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

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 May 17, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$250,076.25 and payroll in the amount of \$94,146.22 for a total of \$344,222.47. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$16,391.61 for Water GIS Services and UIS Scada in the amount of \$21,435.00 for updates to the current systems were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that a fireworks display will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2021 in celebration of the 4th of July.

He further noted his appreciation for the support of the community and organizations that are helping to coordinate a 4th of July parade.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that email billing is available to utility customers.

City Manager Gorman also reminded residents to mow their grass.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents that live in the Safe Routes to School construction areas to water the newly seeded grass as there hasn't been adequate rain.

Council Member Johnston noted that the Memorial Day parade was a great way to thank our service members. She stated that it is awesome to live in a community that values Memorial Day.

Council Member Sheehan stated the 4th of July Parade is being sponsored by the local Girl Scouts and will be held on Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk