

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 21, 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

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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 agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the Safe Routes to School project is coming to an end. The new “smart” traffic light was installed at the corner of West St. and Grand River Ave. last week at \$0 cost to the City of Portland. Crews are still working on adjusting the timing of the light and learning all of its capabilities.

Mayor Barnes noted the new intersection is much improved and more importantly improves the safety near St. Patrick Church and school. He further stated he looks forward to when changes are made to the other intersections in the City using this intersection as a prototype.

City Manager Gorman stated that McKearney Asphalt completed a mill and fill project last Wednesday and Thursday on Ionia Rd., Cross St., and Rowe Ave. There has been a great response from the area residents.

City Manager noted that the Rindlehaven property currently owned by Mayberry Homes has been listed for sale for \$1.4 million. Mayberry Homes has expressed interest in building more new homes on the property which would require an amendment to the current PUD. The required changes do not meet the criteria for a minor amendment, which could be approved by the City Manager. The changes would require going through the major amendment process through the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has previously expressed its openness to these changes. The City has already been considering amending the zoning of the entire property to R2.

Work on the Grand River Ave. Bridge will take place this week to finish up repairs from Fall 2020. The epoxy that will be installed has been on back order preventing completion of the work until this time. Once this work is finished the punch list items can be addressed.

City Manager Gorman presented a video of the nearly complete Sparrow Development Project. The projected opening of the facility is July 19, 2021. This will be a great addition to the community.

City Manager Gorman noted that the City had a special, unannounced visit from Keith Cameron who served as Mayor from 1975-1976. He talked a lot about the history of how the income tax was instituted.

Mayor Barnes noted that their foresight and wisdom brought about the income tax and all that has been accomplished because of it.

City Manager Gorman noted that the historic photos that were displayed in the previous McDonald's building have been donated to the City and will be delivered tomorrow. After some evaluation they will be hung in City Hall.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-36 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-36 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-37 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to several City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-37 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, 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 June 7, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$155,631.15 and payroll in the amount of \$158,724.95 for a total of \$314,356.10. A purchase order to the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$30,254.64 for 4th Quarter fire services was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, 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.

Council Member Sheehan noted the 4th of July parade will be held Sunday, July 4th at 10:00 A.M. There are a number of entries committed to participating in the parade.

City Manager Gorman thanked the City Council and staff for all of their efforts throughout the pandemic; the 3rd State of Emergency in the past six years. The City has been able to continue to serve the residents with no disruption in services.

City Manager Gorman further noted that tomorrow, June 22, 2021 will mark the 6th Anniversary of the tornado that struck Portland.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that a decision will be made on the 911 surcharge by Thursday, June 24, 2021. This will affect the purchase of communication equipment for the Fire Department.

Council Member Johnston noted the Portland Civic Players will hold a car wash fundraiser at Toms on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk