

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, July 6, 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman announced that local resident, Todd Davlin has been hired as the new Electric Superintendent. He will begin his new role on Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

Mayor Barnes noted that he has know Mr. Davlin for several years and has great respect for him and his experience.

City Manager Gorman thanked Brent Henry for serving as the Acting Electric Superintendent. He has been a great help during this transition process.

City Manager Gorman stated the Electric Department and City Clerk have been working with NextEra Energy to conduct a pilot for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) which is an integrated system of smart meters that enables two-way communication. This technology uses Verizon cellular services.

The City is also continuing the effort to migrate water meters to Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology which allows for one-way communication with the meter.

City Clerk Miller further explained the benefits that of both of these technologies. Most importantly, this transition will provide better information on customers meter usage and eventually one time meter reading per month.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Council will consider a resolution related to applying for funds as part of the American Rescue Act.

Auditors from Maner Costerisan will be at City Hall to begin the annual audit of the City's finances.

City Manager Gorman stated that Rindlehaven was recently listed for sale for \$1.4 million by the owners, Mayberry Homes. He has been in discussion with them for some time related to their desire to build more single-family homes on the property. This would require an amendment to the current Planned Unit Development (PUD).

City Manager Gorman further noted that he met with representatives of Mayberry Homes and the City's Zoning Consultant Paul LeBlanc to discuss the requirements. He expects they will present a plan to amend the PUD to the Planning Commission soon.

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 to discuss the rezoning of the City owned property located at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave.

The Planning Commission will also work with Mr. LeBlanc to evaluate and revise the City's Zoning Ordinance.

City Manager Gorman noted that all of the 4th of July festivities were well attended and went very well.

Council Member Sheehan stated that the parade went very well; there were about 30 participants in the parade and many residents observing.

City Manager Gorman noted that the Ambulance Director position is posted; a few applications have been received.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-38 to approve the purchase of three Kenwood 800 MHz radios for the Police Department in the amount of \$7,971.20. The radios will replace radios that are 20 years old and in need of replacement.

Chief Thomas provided information on the proposed radios related to their reliability and reputation.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that the Portland Area Fire Authority is also considering purchase of this type of radios.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-38 approving the purchase of three Kenwood 800 MHz radios for the Portland Police Department.

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 21, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$349,959.48 and payroll in the amount of \$105,187.16 for a total of \$455,146.64. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman thanked all of the volunteers and City staff for their help in making the 4th of July festivities a success. He further noted and thanked the local residents for their help in keeping the Bogue Flats clean after the fireworks.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated that a decision on the 911 surcharge was expected by Thursday, June 24, 2021 but no information has been received. They will be working to find out the status of funding. The Fire Department will need new radios in order to speak with the Police Department's new radios.

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

She further noted that the Portland Blue Sox will play on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes noted the 4th of July parade was great. He further stated that Sparrow will begin seeing patients at the new facility on Monday, July 19, 2021.

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