

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 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

Guests: Jon Moxey, Joe Benjamin, and Dave Harvey of Fleis & VandenBrink; Portland Area Fire Authority Chief Krizov

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

Under Public Comment, Chief Krizov invited the public to attend the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony; commemorating 20 years since the tragedy, on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at Two Rivers Park.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that Golden Bridge Manor has been purchased by MHT. MHT has previously approached the City to inquire about lowering the current PILOT Agreement in order to make renovations to the property. They have since decided to hold off on the project until next year.

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting on October 13, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to consider a proposed rezoning of a 107-acre parcel from TND PUD to R-2 Traditional Residential District and a 22-acre parcel from TND PUD to C-2 General Business District, located in the area of Rowe Ave. and Rindlehaven Commons, by Mayberry Homes on a portion of the Rindlehaven Development.

The Toan Park Revitalization Project continues to progress well with the estimated completion in about one month. The City was recently informed that some of the playground equipment is on backorder several months.

Consideration is being given as to whether parking will be allowed between Powers Park and Toan Park once the project is complete.

The City continues to have discussions with Homeworks Tri-County regarding a potential collaboration for maintenance and operation of a fiber system for the residents of Portland. The City is looking at a potential special assessment to build the fiber network at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million. There would be further costs of approximately \$2.5 million for customer hookups to the network.

City Manager Gorman stated there will be a power outage to all area residents served by the Board of Light and Power to install new reclosers at the Electric Department where the distribution system comes into the City of Portland. This work is necessary to maintain the integrity of the electrical system. The outage is currently scheduled at midnight Friday, October 15th until noon on Saturday, October 16th.

The Ambulance Department has hired a new paramedic who will begin at the beginning of October and another paramedic has recently passed their exam; so, staffing will be doubled from two paramedics to four. City staff is working to change the culture at the Ambulance Department.

The City has hired a new DPW employee who will begin on Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey, Joe Benjamin, and Dave Harvey of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on the project plan for Wastewater System Improvements.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes read the Constitution Week Proclamation for 2021.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading of and considered Ordinance 175QQ to revise Division 8, O-R Office/Research Form-Based District, Section 42-280 of the Code of Ordinances for the property located at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Ordinance 175QQ to amend Chapter 42 – Division 8 of the Code of Ordinances.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-44 to approve the purchase of a 2010 Bonnell Spartan Pro Leaf Machine in the amount of \$43,327.00 for the DPW. The City operates two leaf machines to perform residential leaf pick in the City and both machines are almost 30 years old and nearing the end of their life expectancies.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-44 approving the purchase of a 2010 Bonnell Spartan Pro Leaf Machine for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-45 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal for engineering services associated with the remediation of the fuel spill at the Diesel Generation Plant as recommended by the Board of Light and Power. The City has been working with F&V to make sure all appropriate steps are taken to remediate the diesel fuel release that occurred with the failure of the underground fuel return line in January of 2009. The City Manager and Electric Superintendent requested that F&V provide an updated proposal and new scope of services based upon improved conditions and a goal to achieve site closure. At its meeting on August 31, 2021 the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the proposal to Council for approval.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-45 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal for engineering services associated with the remediation of the fuel spill at the Diesel Generation Plant as recommended by the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-46 to approve the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power for Newkirk Electric to replace the reclosers at the Electric Department at a cost of \$15,350.00. The reclosers sustained fire damage in 2020 and are in need of replacement. At its meeting on August 31, 2021, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the proposal to Council for approval.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-46 approving the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power for Newkirk Electric to replace the reclosers at the Electric Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-47 to approve the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power for Cook Brothers to demolish the storage facility at the dam that has fallen into disrepair. A new storage facility has been constructed. At its meeting on August 31, 2021, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the proposal to Council for approval.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-47 approving the recommendation of the Board of Light and Power for Cook Brothers to demolish the storage facility at the dam.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-48 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 that requires electric utilities to charge up to \$.99 per month on customer bills to raise revenue that would go into the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund administered by the State of Michigan to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. The City of Portland has opted out of this program since 2013 and has previously adopted electric

shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shut-offs from November 1st to April 15th.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-48 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on August 16, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$178,790.93 and payroll in the amount of \$244,848.05 for a total of \$423,638.98. A purchase order for the State of Michigan in the amount of \$74,193.03 for the Grand River Ave. Small Urban Project was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated the 2020/2021 State Champion Girl's Basketball Team from Portland High School will be presented with a City sign commemorating the accomplishment at a Ring Ceremony at Portland High School on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

Consumers Energy is working on a gas line on Grand River Ave. near the Builders Lumber sign at Toan Park.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes reminded residents of the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony to be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 and the upcoming service wide electric outage in October.

Council Member Johnston noted the Portland Civic Players will be hosting a free movie night on Maple St. in front of the theatre on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Mayor Pro-tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW will host a Burger Night on Friday, September 10, 2021 and a breakfast on Sunday, September 12, 2021.

Council Member Sheehan noted that a Cub Scout Round Up will be held at the VFW on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 and Scout Day will be held at Community Lake on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk