

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 18, 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; Bob Lathers

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Bob Lathers stated how impressed he is with the City's infrastructure; although he would like Center St. to be improved at some time. Overall, he stated that he is a satisfied, tax paying citizen. He further stated his concern with lighting at the intersection of Grand River Ave. and West St. since the installation of the new traffic signal. The intersection is very dark in the morning when kids are going to school at St. Patrick.

City Manager Gorman noted that a street light was removed when the new traffic signal was installed. The Electric Department has been monitoring whether the street light should be reinstalled or if the traffic signal provides enough illumination. The principal of St. Patrick school has also been consulted. City Manger Gorman further noted the Electric Department will revisit the issue this week.

There was discussion.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that the scheduled power outage that occurred Friday, October 15th at 11:45 P.M. went very well. Power was restored at 9:30 A.M. Consumers Energy did a great job. City Manager Gorman presented a slideshow of the event.

The Toan Park Reveal was held on October 12, 2021. It was a great event that was very well attended. The VFW held a flag raising as part of the event to dedicate the new flag pole that was installed at the park.

Mayor Barnes stated that the improvements to Toan Park and the installation of the splash pad are very significant accomplishments for the City of Portland and the DDA. This project will impact the City of Portland for decades to come.

Council Member Johnston noted a special moment she had with a little girl that was at the event when the child realized a school fundraising event she participated in helped make the splash pad a reality.

City Manager Gorman stated the Portland Area Municipal Authority held a workshop on October 12, 2021 with the member jurisdictions. It was an opportunity to discuss the existing agreement and space allocation. There was constructive, beneficial conversation throughout the workshop.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman noted that he will be naming Police Chief Thomas the permanent Ambulance Director. The department is fully staffed at this point. There have been very significant, positive changes over the past few months.

The Planning Commission met on October 13, 2021 and held a Public Hearing 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 meeting was well attended by many residents that live in the area with concerns over the proposed commercial zoning request. The Planning Commission tabled a decision on the proposed rezoning to provide Mayberry Homes an opportunity to submit a new proposal.

At the Planning Commission meeting a planner for the owner of Portland Apartments proposed the development of storage units on the property he owns between Tom's Food Center and Charlotte Hwy. This is a permitted use under the current zoning of the property.

City Manager Gorman stated that he is working with Paul LeBlanc of PLB Planning to update Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances. He hopes to provide a draft ordinance to the Planning Commission in the next few months. At their meeting the Planning Commission discussed the potential of adding short term rentals; for use as an AirBNB or similar rental, per a recent request from a downtown property owner. The Planning Commission concurred that this use should be added to the ordinance.

City Manager Gorman noted that he has ordered a commercial appraisal of the property at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave. so the property can be marketed for sale.

The Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property proposed to be donated to the DDA by Bill Fabiano has been completed. There is some evidence that suggest there could be underground storage tanks on the property; further testing will have to be completed to determine if this is the case.

City Manager Gorman stated the City received a letter of acceptance for the American Recovery Act funding earlier today. He expects the City will receive the first half of the funding within the next 30 days.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-55 to approve repairs to the doors and windows at the Hydro Dam in the amount of \$15,012.38 by Bert's Glass.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-55 approving repairs to the doors and windows at the Hydro Dam's Generating Station.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-56 to approve the financing of a 2022 International Snow Plow Truck for the DPW in the amount of \$172,298.84 over a five-year term with 2.25% interest.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-56 approving the financing of a 2022 International snow plow truck for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-57 to approve improvements to the restrooms at the Bogue Flats Recreational Area in the amount of \$22,291.00 by Durrant Brothers Construction, LLC.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-57 approving improvements to the Bogue Flats Recreational Area Restrooms.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on October 4, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$199,869.25 and payroll in the amount of \$114,985.39 for a total of \$314,854.64. Purchase orders to Maner Costerisan in the amount of \$9,500.00 for audit services, Total Tech Assurance Group in the amount of \$10,000.00 for broadband development services, and the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$60,279.31 for 1st and 2nd quarter payments were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated trick-or-treating will be held on Halloween, Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

He further thanked City Clerk Miller for her efforts to have the audio/video equipment repaired before tonight's meeting.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes thanked everyone for their efforts in the successful power outage and required maintenance of the electrical system. He further thanked City Manager Gorman for his presence throughout the night and over the duration of the project.

Mayor Barnes also noted the Toan Park Reveal was a great event. He stated that it is great to see long planned projects come to fruition.

Mayor Barnes and Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck recognized the passing today of Colin Powell; a great American.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck extended congratulations to Chief Thomas on her upcoming appointment as Ambulance Director.

He further noted the improvements to the restrooms at Bogue Flats will be great for City residents.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk