

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 1, 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; Police Officer Rairigh

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Margery Briggs; Mike Judd

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 he has received about half of his Covid relief funds through the American Rescue Act. These funds will likely be allocated to the Water Department for further integration of AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) technology.

The city is working with its engineers and bond attorneys to determine the scope and cost of the Wastewater Improvement Project. The project is estimated to cost between \$8 – \$10.1 million. The city has qualified for \$2 million in loan forgiveness. As the details are solidified there will be more communication of the project with the public along with the expected rate increases.

The Board of Light and Power has been working on integration of AMI (Automatic Metering Infrastructure) technology with NextEnergy. This process has been delayed while MPPA and NextEnergy work on an agreement that would be beneficial to the City of Portland regarding the related costs of implementation.

The Phase I Environmental Study of the property proposed for donation by Fabiano's to the DDA has been completed. There are no known issues but there is a possibility that there are underground tanks present. An underground radar test will be conducted to determine if there are any present.

The Parks Department is planning to make substantial repairs to the Rivertrail this spring. Over the years the memorial bench program has resulted in a substantial number of benches along the

Rivertrail. The number of benches has caused somewhat of a maintenance issue so the Parks Department is working to implement a tree memorial program.

A City resident on Maynard Rd. has requested that hunting by bow in the City be allowed in order for him to control the deer population on his property. City staff has reviewed his request but determined this should not be allowed as it does not meet public safety requirements.

Denny Cunningham, the owner of Rivers Edge Grill, is seeking a liquor license for his property. The City is working with him to address issues related to the boardwalk.

The Toan Park Improvement Project is wrapping up; the City is still waiting on some of the back ordered items.

Mayor Barnes invited Chief Thomas up to introduce the City's newest police officer; Chase Rairigh.

Under Presentations, Mike Judd and Margery Briggs presented City Manager Gorman with a sign recognizing his leadership in handling the tornado and flood disasters and seeing many projects come to fruition.

DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-58 to approve the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology from SLC Meter LLC in the amount of \$37,852.49. The AMR system will eliminate manual entry of water readings at the meter and into the utility billing system at City Hall.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-58 approving the purchase of Automatic Meter Reading Technology.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-59 to approve repairs to the storage building adjacent to the DPW building utilized by the Electric Department. At its meeting on October 26, 2021, the Board of Light and Power voted to recommend the quote from Durrant Brothers Construction in the amount of \$19,860.00 to Council for approval.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-59 approving repairs to the storage building adjacent to the DPW building.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, 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 on October 18, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$110,438.75 and payroll in the amount of \$140,508.13 for

a total of \$250,946.88. Purchase orders to the State of Michigan in the amount of \$7,444.00 for payment on the Safe Routes to School project, Farabee Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$13,091.19 and \$21,354.49 for Norbert Engine Repairs, and Santander Leasing, LLC. in the amount of \$31,931.35 for the final payment on the snow plow were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that Halloween trick-or-treating was a great event.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents the City Council Election will be held tomorrow, November 2, 2021 on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

City Manager Gorman also reminded residents the No Parking ban on city streets between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00A.M. began today.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated the VFW will hold a Fish Fry on Friday, November 5, 2021. He also noted that Veteran's Day is Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Mayor Barnes stated the Council's review of City Manager Gorman has been completed. He expressed his appreciation for everything City Manager Gorman does.

Council Member Johnston noted the play 1776, hosted by the Portland Civic Players, opens on Friday, November 5, 2021. There will be shows both this weekend and next.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk