

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 15, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Member Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Members Fitzsimmons and Johnston

Guests: Kathy Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by City Clerk Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Miller swore in Council Member Sheehan.

City Clerk Miller took nominations for the office of Mayor.

Council Member VanSlambrouck nominated Barnes for Mayor and stated that he looks forward to moving into the future with the current Council Members. There are a lot of exciting things to look forward to in the City of Portland.

Council Member Sheehan supported the nomination.

City Clerk held the vote for the nomination of Barnes for Mayor.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

Mayor Barnes stated that he is honored to serve as Mayor and looks forward to the exciting future ahead.

Mayor Barnes nominated VanSlambrouck for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Council Member Sheehan supported the nomination.

Mayor Barnes held the vote for the nomination of VanSlambrouck for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Yeas: Barnes, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck to excuse Council Members Fitzsimmons and Johnston.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the Toan Park Improvement Project is nearly complete; waiting for some items that are on backorder.

The potential property donation of 103 W. Grand River Ave. to the DDA is still in the due diligence phase. The Phase I Environmental Study did not indicate any real concern with underground tanks on the property but an underground radar will be used to determine if there are tanks present.

City Manager Gorman noted that he has been working with the Michigan Municipal League and other communities on an amendment to the Home Rule Cities Act to prevent outside special interest groups from coming into communities and proposing Charter amendments as was done in Portland this summer regarding the marijuana issue.

Fleis & VandenBrink will present information on the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Plant project at the next Council meeting. This will be a substantial project requiring an investment from the City of Portland of approximately \$8 million. The city is currently working through the financials before the necessary rate increases are discussed. The Design Phase will follow.

City Manager Gorman noted that he and Finance Officer Tolan are reviewing the draft Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit. The auditors will present the audit to Council at the December 6, 2021 meeting.

City Manager Gorman presented photos of the updated DPW building that is in the process of being refaced with new steel.

The Planning Commission will hold two Public Hearings for the proposed development of a self-storage facility at 467 Charlotte Hwy. at its December 8, 2021 meeting. At its October 13, 2021 meeting the board tabled a decision on the request from Mayberry Homes to rezone the property

that is the Rindlehaven Development. City Manager Gorman noted he hasn't had a response from Mayberry Homes since the meeting.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 21-60 to approve a Resolution of Local Approval for a Liquor License Application for Rivers Edge LLC located at 160 Kent St.

City Manager Gorman noted the city has given consideration to the location of the business to the boardwalk and the limited space available. He further recommended approving the application with a memo attached. There will have to be enough space to allow for ADA compliance. Permission will also have to be given from the daycare facility that is located downtown.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes concurred that a memo outlining the requirement should be included and he further noted he is looking forward to people enjoying the boardwalk as was intended.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also agreed that a memo outlining the requirements should be included and noted that strict management and customer understanding will be important to enforce the requirements.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-60 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for a Liquor License Application for Rivers Edge LLC.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-61 to approve a proposal from Town & Country Technologies to install security cameras at various City owned facilities.

City Manager Gorman noted that no subscription fee will be assessed for these services. The cameras installed at City Hall, the DPW, Electric Department, Hydro Dam, and Toan Park are important to protecting the City's critical infrastructure.

Mayor Barnes noted this is a small investment in protecting the City's assets.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-61 approving a proposal from Town & Country Technologies to install security cameras at various City owned facilities.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-62 to approve the purchase in the amount of \$33,874.00 of a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor for the Portland Police Department through the MiDeal Program. The Portland Police Department maintains a fleet of three vehicles and in order to keep them in good working order, a new vehicle is typically purchased every two years.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-62 approving and ratifying the purchase of a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor for the Portland Police Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

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 November 1, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$293,221.09 and payroll in the amount of \$154,255.51 for a total of \$447,476.60. Purchase orders to Newkirk Electric in the amount of \$5,699.46 for additional costs associated with the recloser installation, and Family Farm & Home in the amount of \$7,080.52 for an Energy Optimization Program Refund were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

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

City Manager Gorman reminded residents the No Parking ban on city streets between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. began November 1, 2021.

He also reminded residents the last day of loose-leaf pickup is December 13, 2021. After that time leaves placed at the curb in bags will be picked up. This effort will allow the DPW to properly winterize the equipment.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Sheehan noted the play 1776, hosted by the Portland Civic Players, will be playing this weekend.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk