

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 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: Bill Tucker of Maner Costerisan; Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons

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

City Clerk Miller swore in Council Members Fitzsimmons and Sheehan.

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 noted that DDA Director ConnerWellman was unable to attend tonight's meeting to present the DDA report due to a family emergency.

City Manager Gorman reported the City recently learned it has been approved for \$3.4 million in funding for replacement of the Divine Hwy. Bridge. Construction is expected to take place in 2024 which will allow time for planning and design.

The environmental assessment of the property proposed for donation by Bill Fabiano has been completed. There are no known environmental concerns so the DDA will move forward with drafting a Donation Agreement. The timing of the donation of this property is good with the upcoming Kent Street Improvement Project and the Divine Highway Bridge Replacement.

City Manager Gorman noted that Bill Tucker of Maner Costerisan will present the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 audit. He extended his thanks to Finance Director Tolan for her hard work.

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 and hold two Public Hearings for a potential rezoning and Special Land Use request for the proposed development of single-unit storage facility.

City Manager Gorman noted that the proposed rezoning by Mayberry Homes was tabled at the October 13, 2021 Planning Commission meeting. The City has not heard anything from Mayberry Homes as to how they would like to proceed with their proposal.

Under Presentations, Mr. Tucker of Maner Costerisan presented the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Audit. There were no deficiencies in internal controls that are considered material weaknesses.

Mayor Barnes noted that the audit reinforces the Council's confidence in Finance Director Tolan and City Manager Gorman. He congratulated them both on a job well done.

Finance Director Tolan explained the unfunded liability for the pensions and the actions being taken to completely fund them.

There was discussion.

Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin provided information on the upcoming Design Phase for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvement Project.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes asked if the WWTP project in 2010 had gone well the City would be facing the current situation.

Mr. Moxey stated that even if the prior project had gone perfectly there were some aspects of the plant that were not addressed and other issues that over occurred over the past 10 years. If the prior project had gone well there may not have been the same urgency.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman stated the City has been working to overcome the issues at the WWTP for several years. There has been a due diligence phase that had to take place prior to applying for funding for a project and entering the design phase. With the scope of the project, it would have been impossible to save adequate funds. The City will see rate increases as other communities are seeing to address the issues. Increasing the capacity of the WWTP will serve the City of Portland for years to come.

Mr. Benjamin provided information on the Design Build Agreement for the WWTP Improvement Project.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman noted there is potential for a 40% increase to the wastewater rate over the next couple of years.

Finance Director Tolan indicated the rate increases will be necessary to pay the bond payment for the improvements. The bond is expected to be approximately \$8.5 million. The estimated rate increases will be 13% to take effect July 1, 2022 and 28% to take effect July 1, 2023.

There was extensive discussion.

Council Member Fitzsimmons noted the flood/ice jam in 2019 aged the WWTP system by several years in a very short amount of time.

Under New Business, the Council considered the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to accept the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit as presented by Maner Costerisan.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-63 to approve a Professional Services Design Build Agreement with F&V Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Construction is tentatively planned for the spring of 2023.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-63 approving a Professional Services Design Build Agreement between the City of Portland F&V Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-64 to approve a proposal from NTH Consultants, Ltd. to provide occupational health and safety compliance services to the Electric Department in the amount of \$16,000.00.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-64 approving a proposal from NTH Consultants, Ltd. to provide Occupational Health & Safety Compliance Services to the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-65 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to continue participation in the 2022 Clean Energy Program through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA).

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-65 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to continue participation in the 2022 Clean Energy Program through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA).

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

The Council considered Resolution 21-66 to approve the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of the Streamgaging station at the hydroelectric plant with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. The agreement is for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$8,000.00.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-66 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the Operation of the Streamgaging Station.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, 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 November 15, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$120,116.21 and payroll in the amount of \$112,302.99 for a total of \$232,419.20. Purchase orders to NutriGro Environmental Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$12,240.00 for biosolids land application and the State of Michigan in the amount of \$43,037.92 for the Safe Routes to School project were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the last day for loose leaf pickup is Monday, December 13, 2021.

City Manager Gorman recognized the efforts of the Electric Department in the decorating their building for the Holidays; it looks fantastic.

HolidayFest will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

Council Member Johnston provided details for the event.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted December 7, 2021 is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and that it is a reminder of the sacrifice made for our country.

Mayor Barnes recognized the school shooting in Oxford, MI this past week. He reminded residents that this could happen anywhere and to be vigilant and responsible. If you see something, say something.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None  
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk