

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 20, 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; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Members of Girl Scout Troop 4730

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Girl Scout Troop 4730.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the City continues to consider using funds granted from the American Rescue Act for integration of approximately 800 water meters to AMI technology. The funds would be used for the purchase of the necessary equipment, scheduling and installation. The Electric Department also continues to work toward AMI technology for the electric meters.

The DDA held a special meeting earlier tonight at 6:15 P.M. and approved a Property Donation Agreement with Bill Fabiano for the property located at 103 E. Grand River Ave.

Under Presentations, Girl Scout Troop 4730 presented information on lost & found stations and first aid kits they would like to place in the various parks throughout the city.

City Manager Gorman noted the next step for consideration of their proposal is to work with Parks & Recreation Director Neil Brown to get approval from the Parks & Recreation Board.

DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities.

Under New Business, City Manager Gorman presented information on the First Reading of Ordinance 175RR to rezone the 1.97-acre portion of the parcel located at 467 Charlotte Hwy.

from R-2 Traditional Residential to C-3 Highway Commercial to match the rest of the parcel already zoned C-3.

The Planning Commission met on December 8, 2021 to hold a Public Hearing and consider the rezoning request and a Special Land Use request for a self-storage facility on the parcel located at 467 Charlotte Hwy. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended the rezoning request to City Council for approval and approved the Special Land Use request.

There was discussion.

The Council considered Resolution 21-67 to approve a wage increase for Emergency Medical Technician's (EMT) with the Ambulance Department. City Manager Gorman outlined factors for the necessary increase and noted there will likely be another wage increase in the future.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 21-67 approving EMT wage increases for the Ambulance Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-68 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The Finance Director reviewed the fund balances and expenditures and recommends the proposed budget amendments.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-68 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-69 to approve 2022 meeting dates.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 21-69 approving 2022 City Council meeting dates.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 21-70 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 21-70 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, 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 December 6, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$129,091.42 and payroll in the amount of \$139,775.13 for a total of \$268,866.55. A sale of surplus/scrap property to Emerald Transformer in the amount of \$12,501.00 for the sale of scrap transformers. Purchase orders to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$6,800.00 for repairs to a clay sewer line and to Interstate Billing Service, Inc. in the amount of \$9,989.08 for repairs to the backhoe were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman addressed concerns expressed by business owners and residents regarding the rescheduling of HolidayFest from Saturday, December 11, 2021 to Wednesday, December 15, 2021 due to inclement weather. The decision to reschedule was prudent and was the right call, but apologized for the inconvenience to all. He further noted that he is troubled by the comments the City was not being honest as it leans on the advice of all emergency personnel.

City Manager Gorman noted that 2021 has been a great year; specifically, the significant upgrades to one of Portland's premier parks. There will be many significant projects coming to the City in the next few years including major upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge, and the Kent Street Improvement Project.

City Manager Gorman wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Girl Scout Troop 4730 sang Jingle Bells.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented the VFW has raised approximately \$3,000 for the tornado damage in Kentucky.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk