

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, February 7, 2022

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; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Absent: None

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the Annual Council Goal Session was held February 1, 2022 to kickoff this year's budget process.

Last week there was significant snowfall across the State of Michigan which resulted in DPW crews removing 72 loads of snow from the downtown. He further reminded residents to remove snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their property.

City Manager Gorman noted he was approached with concerns from residents and businesses along Water St. regarding potential flooding and/or ice jams along the Grand River. They proposed installing a cement block retaining wall along the area. City Manager Gorman noted that he explored the idea but found it not feasible as there would be engineering concerns with the stability of such a wall, there would not be enough time to install a wall, a license agreement with the City would be required, and there are concerns that a flood and/or ice jam would be redirected to another location.

City Manager Gorman reaffirmed with Council at the Goal Session that the \$412,000 in funding received through ARPA will be used for AMI water meter integration. He noted that no formal resolution is required for allocation of funding.

The Annual Ambulance meeting was held last week with the participating jurisdictions to discuss the associated costs of operation and the necessary increase to the per capita fee. The meeting was heavily attended. A great discussion was held; there was no opposition expressed to the proposed increases.

City Manager Gorman stated a Notice of Intent to issue bonds for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project would be presented at the next Council meeting. The expected cost of the project is \$8.6 million. The total project is estimated to be \$10.1 million with \$1.5 million in principal forgiveness. The final costs will be determined by market construction costs. Sewer rate increases of 25% the first year and 29% the second year are anticipated.

City Manager Gorman noted that he and the supervisors of both Danby and Portland Townships met with the attorney selected to revise the Portland Area Municipal Authority Agreement.

The donation of property at 103 E. Grand River Ave. by Bill Fabiano has been closed and transferred to the City of Portland's Downtown Development Authority.

City Manager Gorman stated the process of reviewing the Zoning Ordinance has begun. The Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, February 9, 2021 to review and discuss.

Mayor Barnes stated it is amazing, all of the projects the city is involved in and the level of response by City Manager Gorman. He expressed his appreciation for all of his time and effort and thanked him for his efforts to do what is right and communicate effectively with transparency.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck echoed the Mayor's sentiments.

Under presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented her downtown report.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-03 to approve a Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement with WideOpenWest, LLC.

City Manager Gorman clarified this is not an exclusive agreement, but only a license agreement with WOW. The City can receive up to a 5% franchise fee, which has been included in the agreement.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-03 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement with WideOpenWest Mid-Michigan, LLC.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-04 to approve a proposal from Farabee Mechanical, Inc. to perform repairs in the amount of \$104,369.00 to the Cooper Bessemer Engine at the Electric

Department, which serves as the primary back-up generator. At its meeting on January 25, 2022, the Board of Light and Power recommended the City Council approve the proposal.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-04 approving a proposal from Farabee Mechanical, Inc. to perform repairs to the Cooper Bessemer Engine at the Electric Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-05 to approve a proposal from GRP Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$45,400.00 to perform GIS Mapping & Asset Management support for the Electric Department to update its asset management strategy. At its meeting on January 25, 2022, the Board of Light and Power recommended the City Council approve the proposal.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-05 approving a proposal from GRP Engineering, Inc. to perform GIS Mapping & Asset Management support for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-06 to approve a proposal from CHOP Tree Service in the amount of \$25,280.00 to perform tree trimming and removal services for the Electric Department. At its meeting on January 25, 2022, the Board of Light and Power recommended the City Council approve the proposal.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-06 approving a proposal from CHOP Tree Service to perform tree trimming and removal services for the Electric Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-07 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to appoint the Electric Superintendent to the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) Board as the City's representative with the City Manager as the alternate.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-07 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to appoint the Electric Superintendent to the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) Board as the City's representative with the City Manager as the alternate.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-08 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to provide conceptual design phase engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project in the amount of \$36,200.00.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-08 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to provide conceptual design phase engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on January 17, 2022 and the Goal Session on February 1, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$134,386.93 and payroll in the amount of \$237,989.51 for a total of \$372,376.44. Purchase orders to Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$5,638.00 for 2022 membership dues, United States Geological Survey in the amount of \$8,000.00 for Streamgaging at the Hydro Dam, and Durrant Brothers Construction in the amount of \$9,780.00 for repairs to the red barn at the DPW were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the union negotiation process is underway.

He further noted the Daddy Daughter Dance will be held February 23 and 24, 2022 at the KC Hall from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked City Manager Gorman and staff for their planning of the Council Goal Session. He stated that he is looking forward to all of the projects that will take place over the next three years.

Mayor Barnes noted he received a letter from State Representative Julie Calley outlining current legislative issues and that he appreciated her efforts as our State Representative.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk