

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Officer Listerman

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the revised agenda to excuse Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to excuse Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that City Staff have been watching the river levels very closely with the assistance of both the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers and the Michigan State Police. At this point, there has been only minor flooding in the usual areas.

City Manager Gorman and staff continue to work on a potential fiber project. The focus is currently on the financial requirements which are likely to include a bond to fund construction of the infrastructure; with the establishment of a Special Assessment for repayment. An informational meeting for Council is likely to be held the first part of March.

Recently, local residents expressed concerns with WOW on Facebook. City Manager Gorman noted that he posted information in response explaining the City's Franchise Agreement with WOW and that it has never been an exclusive agreement.

The February Planning Commission meeting to review the draft Zoning Ordinance update, although scheduled as a workshop, was cancelled for a lack of quorum. There were not enough members available to gather valuable input. The review will be held at the March meeting.

City Manager Gorman noted he has been contacted by an individual interested in purchasing 1.5 acres of the Cutler Rd. property for development of a day care facility, which is a permitted use.

City Manager Gorman further noted the City of St. Johns has decided to back out of the Shared Services Agreement for assessing services due to changes in their office. The City is looking for another assessor.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-09 to purchase, acquire and construct improvements to the sanitary sewer system and to publish a Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds.

City Manager Gorman stated this resolution starts the process of the financial component of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project, which is anticipated to cost \$10.1 million. The resolution states the improvements are not to exceed \$13 million in anticipation of any “worst case scenarios”.

City Manager Gorman further noted the cost of this project is expected to cause an increase to the wastewater rates of 29% this year and 25% next year.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-09 to purchase, acquire and construct improvements to the sanitary sewer system and to publish a Notice of Intent to issue revenue bonds.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on February 7, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$79,707.74 and payroll in the amount of \$114,025.38 for a total of \$193,733.12. A purchase order to the State of Michigan in the amount of \$6,150.68 for the Grand River Ave. Small Urban Project was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents the Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held this week Wednesday, February 23, 2022 and Thursday, February 24, 2022.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents in the area of the Grand River to be vigilant, to keep an eye on river levels, and to have an emergency plan in place.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also noted that Chief Krizov presented information to the Fire Chiefs Association on the 800 MHz radios. He received a position response from the members that they would support the purchase. The Ionia County leadership is also agreeable to the purchase.

He also stated how important the City's wastewater infrastructure is to the community. The Council is focused on a quality project while keeping the costs under control.

The VFW will host a burger night fundraiser for the Portland Community Fund on Friday, February 25, 2022 from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes noted the entire SAW Grant process was getting to the resolution adopted tonight. It was important to establish the scope of needs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk