

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 21, 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; Police Chief Thomas; Finance Director Tolan; Electric Superintendent Davlin

Guests: 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.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the proposed agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the budget process for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is moving along well. He and Finance Director Tolan will be meeting with each department head this week.

Union negotiations are also underway. A tentative agreement has already been reached with the POLC.

Three qualified RFP's were received on Friday, March 18, 2022 for the Assessing position. A recommendation for approval will be made to Council at an upcoming meeting.

City Manager Gorman further noted he is working on getting the Cutler Rd. property listed with a real estate agent. He noted his plan to present a proposal to Council for approval in the next few weeks.

The DPW is aware of several areas where the roads are breaking up due to the spring thaw. As soon as they are able to get asphalt, they will make the necessary repairs.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink presented an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman, Finance Director Tolan, and Electric Superintendent Davlin presented information on a potential Broadband Fiber project. Funding for a potential project would be provided for by a bond that would be paid back through a Special Assessment.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the City Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 91A, to amend Chapter 32, Section 32-1 of the Code of Ordinances.

City Manager Gorman explained the purpose of this amendment is to include the term “fiber broadband infrastructure” to the definition of public improvement in anticipation of a possible Special Assessment for a Broadband Fiber Project.

The Council considered Resolution 22-14 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an update on the condition of the Bridge Street Bridge. The estimated cost for maintenance of the bridge is \$1 million and would include repainting, sidewalk repair, insulation of the water main that runs under the bridge, and replacement of electrical conduit that also runs under the bridge.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-14 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridget over the Grand River.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-15 to approve an energy purchase not to exceed \$24,722.91 for the calendar year 2024 through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-15 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency contingent upon the approval of the Board of Light and Power.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-16 to approve participation in the State of Michigan bid process for winter road salt for winter 2022-2023.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-16 approving participation in the state bid process for winter road salt 2022-2023.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-17 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 as recommended by the Finance Director.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-17 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

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

The Council considered Resolution 22-18 to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a Water System Maintenance Agreement with Parkview MHC, LLC Mobile Home Park for the operation, maintenance, repair of the multiple connections to the City's water system.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-18 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Water System Maintenance Agreement with Parkview MHC, LLC Mobile Home Park.

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on March 7, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$86,883.21 and payroll in the amount of \$113,957.76 for a total of \$200,840.97. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$5,201.03 for engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project and RS Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$18,548.10 for chemical scales with new tanks for Wells 4, 6, and 7 were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents there is no leaf loose pickup this spring. Any leaves to be picked up by the DPW must be placed in yard waste bags.

City Manager Gorman noted that work on the remaining punch list items for the Splash Pad is taking place. Rules for the new park will be posted soon.

Under Council Comments, Kathy Parsons, the City of Portland representative to the Portland Area Fire Authority, reminded residents that March 20th – 26th is Severe Weather Preparedness Week. A statewide tornado drill will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes recognized the passing of Portland resident Dick Lawless and outlined his many contributions to the community.

Council Member Johnston noted the Portland High School Theatre Department put on their annual show this past weekend and stated that it was outstanding.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk