

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 6, 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

Guests: Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink; Young Residents of the Community

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, two young gentleman from the community provided apologies to the Council for their actions in vandalizing City owned property.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported on two design workshops for the Kent Street Improvement Project. Representatives of Fleis & VandenBrink were present to provide information on the preliminary design concepts. Concerns were expressed with the potential elimination of the angle parking along Kent St. City Manager Gorman noted that Small Urban Project funding has been reallocated from a potential project on Grand River Ave. from Rowe Ave. to Charlotte Hwy. to the proposed Kent St. project. Any grant funding used toward road projects require that certain standards be met.

Mr. Moxey noted that he and staff at Fleis & VandenBrink have been working to quantify what standards are required to receive grant funding; requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) must be adhered to. The City is also applying for the MDOT – Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Revitalization and Placemaking Program (RAP) that must also meet the ADA standards. Mr. Moxey further stated they are considering all of the comments received at the workshops and they continue to work on the required easements that are necessary.

City Manager Gorman read the communication that was sent out with the June utility bills noting that there is the potential for power outages across the State of Michigan this summer.

The prebid meeting for the Broadband Request for Proposals will be held Wednesday, June 15, 2022. At this point, there is at least one potential bidder for the project. The Board of Light and Power has hired an attorney out of Washington D.C. to explore potential grant opportunities.

City Manager Gorman noted that approximately \$30,000 was approved for the Portland Area Municipal Authority (PAMA) in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. PAMA recently submitted their budget request of \$164,000 for extensive repairs to the PAMA building. The City Treasurer has been advised to prepare a budget amendment for the budget request from the General Fund during the 1st Quarter of the new fiscal year.

Council Member Fitzsimmons outlined the repairs to be made to the PAMA building.

There was discussion.

Ambulance Agreements for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 have been sent to the participating jurisdictions. Chief Thomas is attending the Lyons Township Board Meeting tonight in an effort to keep them in contract with the City's ambulance service instead of going to another service as they are considering.

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 where they will continue with their review of the revised draft zoning ordinance. City Manager Gorman further provided background on the proposed rezoning process of the Rindlehaven property by Mayberry Homes. Mr. Schroeder, of Mayberry Homes, has reached out and would like to discuss a new proposal that would be similar to the current Planned Unit Development; mixed use plan.

City Manager Gorman noted other potential development in the City; Auto Zone is considering a development at the former Goodwill property and the owners of Shell are considering the development of a car wash facility at the rear of the property.

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

Director ConnerWellman presented the Downtown Report.

Under New Business, the City Council held the Second Reading and consideration of Ordinance 175SS to rezone the properties located at 126 and 132 Riverside Dr. from C-1 (Central Business District) to R-2 (Traditional Residential District).

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Ordinance 175SS to amend the City Zoning Map.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-45 to apply for \$250,000 in funding through MDOT from the Transportation Economic Development Category B program for roadway improvements on Center Street, Church Street, West Street, Water Street, and Bristie Street.

Mr. Moxey noted this application is intended to enhance the work already planned for this project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-45 to establish a request for funding, designate an agent, attest to the existence of funds and commit to implementing a maintenance program for roadway improvements on Center Street, Church Street, West Street, Water Street and Bristie Street funded by the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-46 a Resolution of Support for the Kent Street Sidewalk Improvements which are intended to include concrete replacement, streetlight and tree relocation, crosswalk enhancements, accessibility improvements and related work between Academy Street and Grand River Avenue. The City is seeking financial support from the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of \$301,200. The City has budgeted for its local match, associated road work, engineering, legal and administrative costs for the project.

Mr. Moxey noted that if this grant is awarded to the City then the Kent Street sidewalks will be required to be ADA compliant.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the Council is committed to improving the downtown. He further challenged the downtown business owners, employees, and citizens to make the same commitment.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-46 a Resolution of Support for Kent Street Sidewalk Improvements.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-47 to approve payment in the amount of \$99,750 to F&V Construction for work performed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-47 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-48 to recognize the Portland Area Historical Society as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-48 recognizing the Portland Area Historical Society as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, 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 May 16, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$390,885.92 and payroll in the amount of \$109,601.34 for a total of \$500,487.26. A purchase order to Vesco in the amount of \$7,554.00 for two decorative street lights was also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reviewed the rules for the splash pad, particularly regarding dogs. Dogs are not allowed on the splash pad but they are allowed in the park. The City will continue to monitor this situation.

City Manager Gorman complimented McKearney on the work completed on the Bogue Flats loop of the river trail.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that dogs at Toan Park should be well behaved.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that today, June 6th, is the memorial of D-Day. What was accomplished that day was an extraordinary feat.

Council Member Johnston noted the Memorial Day processional was a very nice event and complimented the VFW and American Legion for a job well done.

She further noted the VFW will hold a Burger Night fundraiser for the Portland Civic Players on Friday, June 10, 2022.

Mayor Barnes also noted the VFW will hold a Burger Night fundraiser for the Portland Area Historical Society on Friday, June 17, 2022. The vintage baseball team, the Blue Sox, will play in Rockford on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

Mayor Barnes suggested that residents consider going to paperless billing for their utility bills.

Council Member Sheehan noted the Scouts are putting together the 4th of July parade; the community can contact her for more information.

Mayor Barnes thanked Council Member Sheehan for her involvement with the Scouts.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk