

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, July 18, 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

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Mike Judd shared information on the Saginaw Voyageurs Reenactors who will be visiting Portland Saturday, July 23, 2022 as they travel down the Grand River to Lake Michigan. They will set up their tents and welcome visitors and present information on the Voyageurs and the fur trade.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that planning for the Kent Street Improvement Project is in somewhat of a holding pattern at this time. The City is currently waiting on further information on funding and work continues on the language for the many easements that are required for the project. The goal is for construction to take place in 2023 as long as all of the required preliminary requirements are met.

Paperwork is being completed to close out both the Safe Routes to School and Grand River Avenue Bridge projects.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project has been let for bidding; bids are due Wednesday, July 20, 2022. Construction will begin in 2023.

City Manager Gorman noted that he continues to work with DDA on the usage of the Boardwalk by businesses. Riversedge Grill would like to serve alcohol on the Boardwalk which is regulated by the Liquor Control Commission. This has caused the City to look at how much of the Boardwalk should be left accessible for a public walkway.

City Manager Gorman provided information on the denial of the request by the Portland Cruisers to close Kent St on a Thursday from 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. for a car show. Some of the feedback

received was that the City was being anti-business. The decision was based on public safety, as the requested time period is the busiest time of the day. Alternative times and locations have been offered. The City has not received another request at this time.

The Planning Commission has completed its initial review of the Draft Zoning Ordinance update. The next step will be to further discuss certain sections that required more discussion.

The Shell Gas Station continues to work through the process to add a car wash facility to the property located at 1501 E. Grand River Ave.

Mayberry Homes has withdrawn its previous request to rezone the Rindlehaven property to residential with a portion to commercial. A potential developer is looking at both the Rindlehaven property and the City owned property along Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave. for a commercial development so they may reconsider their position of moving forward with rezoning the Rindlehaven property to just residential.

An applicant did submit an RFP for a potential Fiber Project. The RFP is now under review by City staff and consultants on the project.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-58 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide additional engineering services in the amount of \$23,200.00 for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that there continues to be conflict with some of the property owners in the downtown about how the Kent Street Improvement Project should be designed and that the City is not business friendly. He stated his feeling that if there is not a consensus on the project design then he is willing to move the funds for the project to Grand River Ave. to make improvements to the Rowe Ave. intersection which would also benefit the community and area businesses.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-58 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide additional pre-design engineering services for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-59 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal in the amount of \$3,600.00 to provide bridge inspection services for 2022.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-59 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide bridge inspection services for 2022.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-60 a Resolution of Support for Kent Street sidewalk improvements in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The City is seeking financial support from the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of \$322,800.00, which is 60% of the total estimated eligible costs. The City has budgeted the 40% local match in the amount of \$215,200.00 in addition to the associated road work, engineering, legal and administrative costs for the project.

There were no public comments received on the Resolution of Support.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-60 a Resolution of Support for Kent Street sidewalk improvements.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-61 to confirm the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-61 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on July 5, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$309,688.20 and payroll in the amount of \$137,595.21 for a total of \$447,283.41. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents that no signs, including political and yard sale, are allowed in the public right-of-way.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes recognized City Manager Gorman's family that paid him a surprised visit from Hazard, Kentucky today.

Council Member Johnston recognized City Manager Gorman's Eight Year Anniversary with the City of Portland and thanked him for his service to the City.

Council Member Johnston also noted the Portland Civic Players Summer Theatre program will hold their shows July 27-31, 2022.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk