

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 15, 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: Jessica Wood of Dickinson & Wright; 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the proposed agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman commented that Beer on the Bridge was held this past Saturday, August 13, 2022. Although it was a wet, rainy day the event was well attended. He thanked DDA Director ConnerWellman and all of the volunteers.

City Manager Gorman noted that City staff has received many calls from residents concerning the substantial increase in the utility bills. He stated the two most significant factors, beyond the hot summer weather, is the budgeted increase to the sewer rate for the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project and the high cost of electricity on the electric market.

City Manager Gorman addressed the limited funding opportunities to mid-size communities as discussed with Representative Julie Calley at the Council meeting on August 1, 2022. He noted that he and Finance Director Tolan have been working with Representative Calley and EGLE to try to find additional funds for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. The State Revolving Fund is likely to receive additional funding; hopefully some of those monies can be directed to the project.

Improvements to Virginia St. were made last week with a mill and fill project to improve its surface. There will still need to be a major infrastructure project in the future to improve the utilities and install sidewalks.

City Manager Gorman stated that last week he, Electric Superintendent Davlin, and Finance Director Tolan visited Point Broadband in Greenville. They were the applicant for the Fiber Project RFP.

The Kent Street Improvement Project is in somewhat of a holding pattern as funding for the project is determined. The City has been awarded funds through the Small Urban Program and the Transportation Alternative Program but is still waiting to hear from the MEDC on the RAP Grant. The easements for the project will also need to be executed over the next few months. It is an aggressive time schedule to be ready for construction in 2023 with the easement process and the MDOT design process. If all preparations are not complete for construction in 2023 the project will take place in 2024.

The Divine Hwy. Bridge Replacement Project is also slated to take place in 2024.

There was discussion.

The Planning Commission met on August 10, 2022 and completed the review of the Draft Zoning Ordinance Update. The draft will now undergo review by both the City Engineers and Attorneys and work will begin to update the City Zoning Map.

Representatives of the Shell Gas Station at 1501 E. Grand River Ave. have formally submitted their Site Plan Application to add a car wash facility on their property. The current car wash would be converted to storage.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, Jessica Wood of Dickinson & Wright presented information on Resolution 22-64 to authorize the issuance of Sanitary Sewer System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2022.

The City Council considered Resolution 22-64 to authorize the issuance of Sanitary Sewer System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2022.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-64 to authorize the issuance of Sanitary Sewer System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2022.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on Resolution 22-65 to tentatively award the Construction Contract for the Wastewater System Improvements.

Mr. Moxey shared further information regarding the seeming lack of funding for wastewater projects. The City has tapped into some of the funding that is available for this type of project and he further noted that although there is “money on the table” it is a very competitive process

to have it awarded. There are more municipalities looking for funding and costs of projects are much higher.

Mr. Benjamin stated there are several contracts involved with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project as different contractors will be doing various parts of the project. Fleis & VandenBrink continues to work through evaluating all of the bids submitted for the different parts of the overall project and they are still waiting for better pricing from some of the contractors. All pricing will be made available to the City for review. Resolution 22-65 is the next step in moving forward with financing for the project.

Mr. Moxey further explained the challenges and costs associated with the collection system upgrades that were meant to be part of the overall project. Due to the extensive costs, particularly with updating the crossing from Fabiano's across the Grand River, the collection system upgrades may have to be put on hold in order to focus on the plant as that is most critical at this time. The cost for the river crossing alone is \$1 million in addition to the \$2 million for other collection system upgrades. A final determination will be made once all costs have been finalized.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-65 to tentatively award a construction contract for Wastewater System Improvements.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-66 to approve a proposal and agreement from MGT of America Consulting, LLC for cost allocation services to review and update the current administrative fees.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 22-66 approving the proposal and agreement from MGT of America Consulting, LLC for cost allocation services and approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign same.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-67 to approve payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$56,525.00 for work performed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-67 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on August 1, 2022,

payment of invoices in the amount of \$154,972.76 and payroll in the amount of \$142,766.72 for a total of \$297,739.48. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman assured residents the City is sympathetic to the recent increase to utility costs and noted staff thoroughly reviews all information diligently.

City Manager Gorman presented a photo of the wildflower area at Bogue Flats with the new rock formation that has been added to the area and noted it is a nice addition. He further thanked everyone involved with the project and the Friends of the Red Mills for all that they do; the area looks wonderful.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck recognized the passing of long time Portland resident, Barry Hilligan.

He further noted the VFW will host a Spaghetti Dinner for the Fireman's Association and the American Legion on Friday, August 26, 2022 from 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Council Member Sheehan noted the Red Mill Community Day will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the Red Mill.

Council Member Johnston noted the Portland Civic Players Drama Run will be held on the morning of Saturday, August 27, 2022. She further noted the Marquee Fundraiser is also underway.

Mayor Barnes stated that there was a great turnout for Beerfest. He thanked Kathy Parsons and all of the volunteers and noted that DDA Director ConnerWellman does a great job of organizing and running the events in the community.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk