

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, September 19, 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; Police Officer Smith

Guests: Kara and Michael Dougherty of Dougherty Assessing; Mike Judd; 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 Fitzsimmons, to approve the proposed agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that the City continues to work through the easement acquisition process for the Kent Street Improvement Project. The City did receive notification that it did not receive funding for the project through the MEDC RAP Grant but is still waiting to hear on the possibility of funding through the MDOT TAP Grant. The goal is for construction to take place in 2023 but may be pushed to 2024 depending on how long all of these processes take place.

City staff will meet with the engineers on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project to determine the scope of the project. It is necessary for the project to be scaled back due to costs for the project coming in much higher than the project estimates.

City Attorney Karen McFadden has decided to close her practice and move on at the end of the year. He thanked her for service to the City of Portland.

The Broadband RFP process continues to move forward. The Electric Department is also beginning planning for a new substation.

The Planning Commission met on September 14, 2022 and held a site plan review for a new car wash facility at the Shell gas station located at 1501 E. Grand River Ave. The matter was tabled to allow the applicants more time to gather information to evaluate the traffic flow on the

property and access along Grand River Ave. The substantive review of the Draft Zoning Ordinance has been completed and now an update of the Zoning Map is underway.

City Manager Gorman thanked Police Chief Thomas for her work and diligence in last week's Ambulance licensing and recertification process.

The splash pad closed for the season today, Monday, September 19, 2022.

City Manager Gorman noted he is working with a local family on a sizeable donation to a City park.

Under Presentations, Director ConnerWellman presented her Downtown Report.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-74 to approve the City Manager's proposed appointment of Kara Dougherty as the City Assessor.

City Manager Gorman introduced Mrs. Dougherty.

Kara and Michael Dougherty introduced themselves to the Council and provided information and a background on their business and experience.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-74 approving the City Manager's proposed appointment of Kara Dougherty as the City Assessor.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-75 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 22-75 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

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 September 6, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$116,971.54 and payroll in the amount of \$123,325.79 for a total of \$240,297.33. A purchase order to the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$31,504.51 for 2nd Quarter fire services was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that trick-or-treating will be held in the City of Portland on Halloween, Monday, October 31, 2022.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes acknowledged the passing of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk