

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 17, 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: Jon Moxey and Peter Tierney 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 Fitzsimmons, to approve the proposed revised agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink will provide an update and information on the Kent Street Improvement Project tonight.

At its meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, the Planning Commission approved a revised site plan to construct a new car wash facility at the Shell gas station located at 1501 E. Grand River Ave.

The City is excited to welcome, Erin Fair who has been hired as the new part time Recreation Coordinator. She will begin work on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

City staff met with Utility Financial to consider opportunities for rate setting and future Capital Improvement Planning.

The Board of Light and Power has begun planning for development of a new substation and repairs to the fencing at the Dam property are underway.

The Water Meter Replacement Program will begin next week and will take approximately three to four months to complete. Information is available to residents in the City's newsletter, on its website, and in the monthly newsletter.

City Manager Gorman presented a photo of the new Police Car with an updated paint scheme.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey and Peter Tierney of Fleis & VandenBrink provided information on the Kent Street Improvement Project including project funding, design, next steps, and schedule. The project will include complete reconstruction of Kent Street from Academy Street to Grand River Avenue.

Mr. Moxey stated his recommendation that based on discussions with MDOT and the feedback from business owners the City should move forward with the angle parking design for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck confirmed there will still be some parking spots lost with the revised angle parking design but not as many as if the parallel parking design was used. He further expressed his support for moving forward with the proposed angle parking design.

Mr. Moxey stated they will be working through the approval process with MDOT through this Winter and Spring 2023 with a possible bid letting Summer 2023. The best-case scenario is construction to take place late in the construction season of 2023. Based on current supply chain issues it is likely the project will be delayed to 2024.

There was discussion of how the easement process will affect timing of the project.

City Manager Gorman noted the City will be pushing for construction to take place in 2023.

Mayor Barnes stated the proposed 45-degree angle parking design addresses the issues with the current angle parking while retaining as many parking spaces as possible.

City Manager Gorman stated the proposed 45-degree angle parking design is also his recommendation.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-83 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal in the amount of \$98,600.00 to provide Design Engineering Services for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-83 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide Design Engineering Services for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-84 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 that would require collection of up to \$0.99 per month on utility bills to raise revenue for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. By opting out of this program the City cannot shut off electricity to residential customers from November 1st to April 1st for nonpayment of delinquent accounts.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 22-84 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

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 October 3, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$186,530.74 and payroll in the amount of \$119,313.87 for a total of \$305,844.61. A purchase order to UPWords in the amount of \$7,500.00 for employee training was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that DPW crews have begun picking up leaves.

The no parking on City streets between 2:00 A.M. – 6:00 A.M. will begin on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Trick-or-treating will be held in the City of Portland on Halloween, Monday, October 31, 2022 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. Ionia County Central Dispatch will sound the alarm to both begin and end trick-or-treating.

City Manager Gorman noted the Electric Department through the MMEA (Michigan Municipal Electric Association) held a coloring contest for 1st – 4th graders in Portland. Area resident Landon Galt won the coloring contest and had his photo taken with the Electric Department crew and the bucket truck.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that daylight savings will begin on Sunday, November 6, 2022.

City Manager Gorman noted the improvements that are being made to the building at 103 E. Grand River Ave., that was donated to the DDA by Bill Fabiano.

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

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk