

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 21, 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, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller

Absent: Council Member Johnston

Guests: David Eberle, Shaydon Weaver, and Clinton Rosekopf of Bloom Sluggett, PC; 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the proposed agenda with a revision to excuse Council Member Johnston.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to excuse the absence of Council Member Johnston.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman thanked the DPW crews for their prompt attention to cleaning the city streets after the recent snowfall.

City Manager Gorman thanked City Clerk Miller and the election workers for all their efforts on Election Day, November 8, 2022. He noted attorneys representing the City will be working to revise the Sign Ordinance to address issues related to political signs.

City Manager Gorman thanked the downtown business owners that attended the November 7, 2022, Council meeting and for their discussion related to the project. Funding for the project is still being finalized but the City is expecting to receive an update in the next couple of days. A

design review meeting will be held with City Engineers on December 6, 2022. Construction will likely take place in 2024; a more precise schedule will be available soon.

The City is working on a new or revised trash/recycle hauling contract. Granger has been a great partner to the City. The City Ordinance requires an RFP process for a new contract but is not required for an amendment. Previous updates to the Granger Contract have been done through amendments. City Manager Gorman stated he will have a recommendation for a new or amended contract update in January.

An employee training was held on November 16, 2022. A second session will be held in December, and a third in January. He thanked Council for their approval of this training as it is valuable to the employees.

The Zoning Ordinance update is currently under legal review.

City Manager Gorman noted he has been working with the new owners of Rindlehaven on a proposed rezoning of the property. A Public Hearing will likely be held at the January Planning Commission meeting.

New business owners are working to open a Mexican restaurant in the building that formerly housed the Looking Grand Café. They expect to open the new restaurant in late winter/spring 2023.

City staff received the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit and has been reviewing it over the past week. The auditors will present the audit at the December 5, 2022, meeting.

The 2023 budget process will begin soon with the Goal Session expected to take place in late January.

Under Presentations, City Manager Gorman stated upon the recent notice of retirement from City Attorney Karen McFadden he has chosen David Eberle of Bloom Sluggett, PC as her replacement.

David Eberle, Shaydon Weaver, and Clinton Rosekopf of Bloom Sluggett, PC introduced themselves and noted their pleasure to serve as attorneys for the City of Portland.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-87 to approve the City Manager's appointment of David Eberle of Bloom Sluggett, PC as the Portland City Attorney.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 22-87 approving and ratifying the City Manager's appointment of David Eberle of Bloom Sluggett, PC to serve as the Portland City Attorney.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-88 to approve the purchase of a John Deere 3039R tractor in the amount of \$32,053.67, through the MiDEAL program for the Parks Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-88 approving the purchase of a John Deere tractor for the Parks Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-89 to approve the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station at the hydroelectric plant as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-89 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

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 November 7, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$183,590.54 and payroll in the amount of \$139,458.25 for a total of \$323,048.79. Purchase orders to the Portland Area Municipal Authority in the amount of \$5,945.10 for services provided by Cook Brothers Excavating, and in the amount of \$40,475.81 for a new roof were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the last day for loose leaf pickup will be Monday, December 5, 2022.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that no parking on City streets between 2:00 and 6:00 A.M. will begin November 1st through April 1st.

City Manager Gorman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and noted his thankfulness for the support of the City Council and City Staff.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated the VFW will host Thanksgiving Dinner from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. on Thanksgiving. This is free to the community.

Council Member Sheehan congratulated new Eagle Scout, Brandon Kowatch on his achievement.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk