

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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 Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Electric Superintendent Davlin; Police Officer Smith

Absent: Council Member Sheehan

Guests: Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink; Dave Eberle of Bloom, Sluggett, P.C.

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 revised agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

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

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget process is underway.

The Department of Public Works and Police Department are monitoring the forecasted winter weather that is expected.

City Manager Gorman stated he issued a Public Service Announcement on Facebook last week to address the odor in the community emanating from the Sunset Ridge Mobile Home Community lagoon system. The City continues to have discussions with representatives of Sunset Ridge, the State of Michigan, and Portland Township to work toward a resolution for this ongoing issue.

City Manager Gorman noted that he and City Clerk Miller continue to work with Civic Plus on a “refresh” of the City’s website to improve both the look and its functionality. The City will be working with local photographer, Dillon Frye to provide updated photos and videos to be included on the website.

Under Presentations, Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

There was discussion.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 23-13 to approve an energy purchase to meet a portion of future load requirements for calendar years 2025 through 2028 through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-13 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-14 to authorize a Conduit Lease Agreement and Letter of Understanding between the City of Portland and Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

City Manager Gorman stated that there have been ongoing discussions with Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative related to providing fiber service in the City of Portland. The proposed resolution would authorize the him to negotiate the Conduit Lease Agreement and Letter of Understanding. He further noted that Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative has been a great partner throughout this process.

Mayor Barnes stated that he is thankful for City Manager Gorman and staff who have worked to ensure the City of Portland will be providing fiber service in the best way possible.

City Manager Gorman provided further information on the due diligence that has been undertaken throughout the entire process of evaluating fiber service for the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck echoed the Mayor’s sentiments and further commended former Electric Superintendent Mike Hyland for his foresight to have buried extra conduit during construction projects that can now be used to provide this service.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 23-14 authorizing a Conduit Lease Agreement and Letter of Understanding between the City and Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on February 6, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$155,197.34 and payroll in the amount of \$119,215.88 for a total of \$274,413.22. Purchase orders to Bloom Sluggett, PC in the amount of \$6,931.50 for legal services related to the Fiber Project, and Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$19,136.73 for the Kent Street Improvement Project were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the Daddy/Daughter Dance hosted by the Recreation Department will be held February 22 and 23, 2023 at the KC Hall.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Johnston noted the Portland High School Drama Department will perform the Addams Family production on March 9, 10, and 11 at Portland High School.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents to be vigilant and support law enforcement in their efforts to keep everyone safe, in the wake of the recent shooting at Michigan State University.

Mayor Barnes stated that Portland Township is in the process of updating their Master Plan. It is available for viewing and comment through March 27, 2023.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk