

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 7, 2014

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Krause, Fitzsimmons and Sunstrum; Interim City Manager and DDA Director Reagan; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Knobelsdorf

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Noreen Logel of the Friends of the Red Mill; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve the revised Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, Interim City Manager Reagan presented information on the action items for consideration on the Agenda.

Interim City Manager Reagan reported the DPW has hauled 110 loads of brush within the past two weeks due to the ice storm over the winter. The DPW and Parks Department will be renting a tub grinder for two days to grind up the pile of brush.

The City received word that it was not selected during the lottery drawing to receive the SAW Grant it applied for last fall. This grant is for Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater funds. The City's application will automatically be reentered for another drawing for receipt of funding.

The Block Party will be held on Saturday, May 17th and will include entertainment, children's activities, crafters, a BBQ contest and many other fun-filled activities.

The Portland Pay Day, shop local campaign, will begin June 1st and will run through August 31st.

Under Presentations, Noreen Logel with the Friends of the Red Mill presented the 2nd draft of plans for the proposed Red Mill pavilion project. The plans for the structure have been presented to and approved by the Parks and Recreation Board. The pavilion is a bit larger than was originally proposed and was moved from the North side of the mill to the South side. There is some question as to the location of the structure. One plan is to move the pavilion back from the street 35 feet in order to allow for handicap parking. This would require the River Trail to be moved. They are proposing to leave the current trail, which will only be 2 feet off from the pavilion, and add another section closer to the trees that are already planted along the current trail.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes stated that the plans for the structure look beautiful. He said there was concern about separation of activity at the pavilion and on the trail. The addition of another portion of trail would allow pedestrians on the River Trail to move away from activities taking place in the pavilion if desired, but any decision by the City Council would be based on input from the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mrs. Logel stated that one citizen has come forward with a possible donation of Ash trees for the project. It is still being determined if the trees can be used as they have been down for some time. The Friends of the Red Mill are meeting with local groups to join efforts in fundraising, etc.

Council Member Sunstrum inquired where the funds for the additional section of the River Trail would come from.

Mrs. Logel stated the Friends of the Red Mill are planning to include this in the cost of the project. They will be looking to the City for any help it may be able to provide.

Council Member Krause asked if there could be discussion about the necessity to add the addition section of River Trail 10 feet from the pavilion as she didn't feel it should be needed. She further suggested a row of hedges be added between the pavilion and the current section of river trail for some separation.

Interim City Manager Reagan stated the Parks and Recreation Board are concerned with the safety of pedestrians on the River Trail with the pavilion so close to it.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented that when the pavilion is in use, the added section of trail would allow pedestrians not participating in the event to move away from the area.

Mayor Barnes noted that his impression was that having another section of trail added 10 feet away would allow the area to remain open for movement. He reiterated that the Parks and Recreation Board and Director Scheurer are the experts in such matters.

There was continued discussion.

Mrs. Logel inquired if it would be okay to forward the proposed plans on to the engineers for further planning and drafting.

The Council voiced their approval of the plans for the structure with the input and consent of the Parks and Recreation Board regarding its placement with respect to the trail.

Mayor Barnes presented the Arbor Day Proclamation noting the City of Portland has been designated a Tree City USA since 2002 and noted the Tree Management Commission and Parks and Recreation Board will hold a tree planting at Two Rivers Park on Friday, April 25th at 1:00 P.M. Seedlings will also be distributed to 2nd graders at Portland Public Schools and St. Patrick Schools.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading and consideration of proposed Ordinance 175EE to amend Section 42-411 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances to amend the design standards for the C-2 and C-3 districts to allow “architectural sheet metal” to be utilized on buildings within this district. The second change would allow the Planning Commission to “deviate from the minimum percentages in the design standards where the building design incorporates patterns and materials that provide visual interest through changes in color, material, or relief, such as the inclusion of beltlines, pilasters, recesses, and pop outs.”

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired if these changes would apply to the downtown.

Interim City Manager Reagan stated it would not; these changes are for the C-2 and C-3 districts.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Ordinance 175EE to amend Section 42-411 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Krause, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council held the Second Reading and consideration of Proposed Ordinance 175FF to amend Section 42-298 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances that clarifies the ordinance to allow either a concrete slab or a foundation for accessory buildings.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Ordinance 175FF to amend Section 42-298 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Krause, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council held the Second Reading and consideration of Proposed Ordinance 175GG to amend Section 42-310 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances to allow temporary structures for seasonal sales for up to 30 days.

Motion by Sunstrum, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 175GG to amend Section 42-310 of the Portland City Code of Ordinances.

Yeas: Sunstrum, Krause, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-27 to appoint Council Member Stacy Krause as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA) Board of Directors. The ICEA is a county-wide organization dedicated to retaining and attracting businesses to Ionia County and provides comprehensive economic development services including business retention, expansion and attraction support to Ionia County businesses. The City of Portland has been a member in good standing since 2007.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-27 appointing Council Member Stacy Krause as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Economic Alliance Board of Directors.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Krause, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-28 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement with Cheeky Monkeys LLC to place tables and chairs on the boardwalk in front of their establishment at 176 Kent Street.

Motion by Krause, supported by Sunstrum, to approve Resolution 14-28 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement.

Yeas: Krause, Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-29 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Recreation Services Agreement with Danby Township. The City operates a Recreation Department to program activities for adults and youth in the community. The City's Recreation Department does not cover all of its operating costs from registration fees but receives financial support from the City's General Fund and from communities that provide financial support so that their residents are eligible to participate in programs at the same cost as City residents. The City and Danby Township desire to enter into an interlocal agreement so that Danby Township will provide \$7,500 to be deposited in the City's Recreation Fund to help defray the costs of programming recreation services to the community and so that Danby Township residents would be eligible to receive recreation services at the same rates as City residents.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-29 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Recreation Services Agreement with Danby Township.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Krause, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-30, a resolution of financial assurance of local funds for the City of Portland's Cutler Road Improvement Project. The City of Portland now qualifies to receive Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the Small Urban Program administered by MDOT. The Small Urban Task Force, comprised of representatives from the City of Portland and Ionia County Road Commission, met on March 12th to prioritize projects for 2014 through 2017 and the City's Cutler Road Improvement Project received priority for the 2014 application year. Prior to an official program application being submitted to the Small Urban Program, MDOT requires assurances of a required local match of 20% of road construction costs, which are estimated by the City's engineers to be \$599,600. The City's costs amounting to \$224,600. The City issued General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds in the amount of \$1,400,000 to cover street improvement projects, including the Cutler Road Improvement

Project. The City also has a local income tax, dedicated to street improvements such as paving, curb and gutter, sidewalks, streets lights, and related water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

Motion by Sunstrum, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 14-30 a resolution of financial assurance of local funds for the City of Portland’s Cutler Road Improvement Project.

Yeas: Sunstrum, Krause, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council meeting held on March 17, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$61,874.57 and payroll in the amount of \$103,027.95 for a total of \$164,902.52. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member Krause commented that last year Shane Hagadorn, a former Portland resident, filmed a movie in the City of Portland called “Ashes of Eden”. His movie will be premiered at the Capital City Film Festival on Sunday, April 13th.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked the DPW for their hard work after a relentless winter of snow removal and for their continued efforts in removing the brush left after the ice storm in late December.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents that the Citywide Clean Up will be held Saturday, April 26th. This is an excellent opportunity to clean up their homes and yards.

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

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk