

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 4, 2014

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Council Member Smith

Guests: Patrice Weber; Kathy Parsons; 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Proposed Revised Agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Motion by Sunstrum, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Smith.

Yeas: Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman gave an update on the Old School Manor property. The WODA Group was seeking funding from MSHDA but lost points on a couple of critical issues, including the lack of local transportation and not having 36 units in the building.

City Manager Gorman advised he spoke with Mr. Patterson of The WODA Group to get an update on where they stand with the potential project. They do have concerns with the building itself, but not with the community which is in fact why they continue to consider the project. They are currently moving forward with the architects to see if they can increase the number of units to 36. They should know by November if the project is viable. The City will work on trying to address the public transportation issue and consider other possibilities, including demolition of the building.

City Manager Gorman stated the phones at City Hall have been out of service since Monday, July 28th. The most recent update from the Portland Public Schools, as the City is on the School's phone service, is that phone service should be restored by Wednesday. In the meantime, staff has

connected an analog phone with an answering machine to one of the fax lines. All phone lines are currently being forwarded to that phone.

City Manager Gorman further stated that the phone partnership with the schools has been successful to this point. They are giving priority to the City's phone lines as they work toward getting the software upgraded.

Under Old Business, City Manager Gorman stated that he spoke with Mr. Frewen of Frewen Realty late last week. Patrice Weber was able to close on the financing for her project to convert the old Portland Federal Credit Union property at 223 Charlotte Hwy. into an assisted living center and they would like to move forward with the rezoning.

Ms. Weber addressed the Council and stated she currently has five individuals on a waiting list and she will begin advertising soon. The facility will house 19 residents with assisted living including those with Alzheimer's and dementia. Ms. Weber further stated she is very excited to be in the community. She plans to have the facility open by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sunstrum, to remove the consideration of Ordinance 175HH, to rezone the property at 223 Charlotte Hwy. from C-2 to R-2, from the table.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Ordinance 175HH to amend the City Zoning Map.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 14-66 to approve Change Order No. 7, in the amount of \$3,854.40 to construct a 96 square foot block retaining wall on Storz Avenue, to the contract with CL Trucking, Inc. for the Barley, Knox, and Storz Improvements Project. City Manager Gorman presented photos of the project and outlined the need for the retaining wall. The City Engineer has prepared and is recommending this change order.

City Manager Gorman advised the street improvement project is near completion with some punch list items remaining. The final walk-through with engineers will be held soon.

Motion by Sunstrum, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-66 approving Change Order No. 7 to the contract with CL Trucking, Inc. for the Barley, Knox, and Storz Improvements Project.

Yeas: Sunstrum, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-67 to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Rush Clement to the Downtown Development Authority with a term expiring June 30, 2018 and Patrick Fitzsimmons to the Economic Development Corporation with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-67 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-68 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to purchase six rolls of Kerite wire in the amount of \$51,975.00 from Resco for undergrounding work being done by the Electric Department in the area of Friend Road, Gibbs Road, Maynard Road, Riverest Road and Oak Road which was approved by Council in March. City Manager Gorman advised that Resco is the sole-source supplier of Kerite wire in the State. This purchase was included in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget.

Motion by Sunstrum, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-68 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to purchase six rolls of Kerite wire from Resco.

Yeas: Sunstrum, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-69 to approve a bid in the amount of \$7,790.00 from Cook Brothers Excavating to install a sanitary manhole on West Bridge Street to repair an offset of 6" line to 8" line in the sanitary sewer lines which has caused clogging issues resulting in multiple sewage backups at 200 West Bridge Street. The Wastewater Treatment Plant staff has determined the installation of this sanitary sewer manhole would alleviate this issue and help prevent future sewage backups and overflows at this location.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-69 approving a bid from Cook Brothers Excavating to install a sanitary manhole on West Bridge Street.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council held on July 21, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$58,064.77 and payroll in the amount of \$147,865.82 for a total of \$205,930.59. Also included were purchase orders to the United States Geological Survey in the

amount of \$7,850.00 for operation of the Streamgaging station on the Grand River in Portland and to Resco in the amount of \$51,975.00 for six rolls of Kerite wire.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman stated that to-date Relay for Life in Portland has raised \$62,900. This year's event is not over yet, donations can be made through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Portland Main Street's "Wine the Walk" will be held on the Boardwalk on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 11:00 P.M. The will include Michigan made craft beer and wine tasting.

The Primary Election will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Registered voters in the City of Portland will vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Legislative Luncheon on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the China Buffet and its Annual Golf Outing on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at Willow Wood Golf Course.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated he has received some complaints about the quality of the mill and fill placed on the cemetery roads. There are large chunks of asphalt that make walking on the roads difficult.

City Manager Gorman stated he will talk to the DPW and Cemetery Director Scheurer to see if this can be repaired somehow.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also stated that although the City may have an opportunity to see The WODA Group redevelop the Old School Manor property we still need to consider other possibilities. He further stated he would like to see the City stay on track for funding if razing of the building is required.

Mayor Barnes commented that it was very rewarding to be a part of the Relay for Life event held over the weekend. He would love to see a cure for cancer just like they were able to cure polio. Individuals need to communicate with their congressional representatives regarding the need for funding for more research.

Mayor Barnes noted the Relay for Life sign that is meant to be posted at the entrance of the City designating Portland as a Relay for Life community.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk