

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 16, 2014

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Smith, Fitzsimmons, and Sunstrum; Interim City Manager and DDA Director Reagan; City Clerk Miller; Electric Superintendent Hyland; Interim Main Street Manager Perry; Police Chief Knobelsdorf

Guests: 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 Smith, supported by Sunstrum, to approve the Proposed Revised Agenda.

Yeas: Smith, Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 also reported the Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the 4th of July fireworks for Friday, July 4th at dusk. The parade will be at 10:00 A.M. and will follow the normal route.

St. Patrick's will host their annual Summer Fest June 21st and 22nd and will include a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a 5K race on the Rivertrail, a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament; and a softball tournament. They will also host a chicken dinner, a euchre tournament, and DJ trivia.

The Portland Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the City of Portland's Recreation Department, will again host the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus at Bogue Flats on Saturday, June 28th. There will be two shows, one at 2:00 P.M. and another at 4:30 P.M.

Under Presentations, Interim Main Street Manager Perry gave a report on downtown activities. Portland Pay Day is underway through Thursday, August 22nd. The Grand Prize raffle drawing will be held at the Band Shell on Thursday, August 28th in conjunction with Thursdays on the Grand.

The Block Party was held on Saturday, May 17th; it was the best event over the past five years. There are even more good ideas to include for next year's event.

Two new businesses are coming to downtown Portland. Summit Digital, a digital communications company, will open a call center at 107 W. Bridge St. and Miller in Motion, which offers classes and activities focusing on gymnastics, and motor skill development for children at 126 E. Bridge St.

The Main Street program received several thank-you notes; including one from the State of Wyoming for their visit to Portland. They were very impressed with uniqueness of Portland and the River Trail. Bouncers & More and the face painter that participated in the Block Party both sent thank you notes for being able to participate as they had a very good turnout.

Under Old Business, Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, 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, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

This ordinance was re-tabled at the last Council meeting at the request of Terry Frewen, realtor for the property at 223 Charlotte Hwy. Mr. Frewen stated the loan application for this property is still under review and requested the Council table this second reading.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sunstrum, to table Ordinance 175HH to amend the City Zoning Map.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Smith, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 14-49 to authorize the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School on the 4th of July.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sunstrum, to approve Resolution 14-49 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Smith, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-50 to approve Change Order No. 2 to the contract with CL Trucking, Inc. for the Barley, Knox, and Storz Improvement Project to relocate a fire hydrant and valve and to remove a tree for a total cost of \$3,302.00. The City Engineer has prepared the change order and is recommending its approval.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-50 approving Change Order No. 2 to the contract with CL Trucking, Inc. for the Barley, Knox, and Storz Improvements Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-51 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 14-51 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Smith, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-52 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Barnes thanked all individuals that serve on City Boards and Commissions for their service to the community.

Motion by Smith, supported by Sunstrum, to approve Resolution 14-52 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Smith, Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-53 to accept the purchase of tax reverted property at 874 Lyons Road.

Electric Superintendent Hyland stated the information regarding the availability of the property at 874 Lyons Road came to light after the June 2nd Council meeting. It has been a long-term goal of the Board of Light & Power to have a substation in the Downtown and on Lyons Road. The location of this property is almost perfect and the price is low. He further stated he understands the potential concerns of a substation being located in a neighborhood and showed photos of how it can be designed to look like a house. This process would take approximately two to three years. In addition, there is cast iron pipe to supply TRW with water. This should be replaced at some point and could be moved from its current location, a couple of houses down, to this property as well. Mr. Hyland proposed splitting the cost of the property with the Water Department, so the cost would be minimal to both the Electric and Water Departments.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked if anyone lives in the house located on the property.

Mr. Hyland stated there is no one currently living in the house. Although he's not sure if the house could stay or not, he would prefer to have it removed if possible.

Council Member Smith stated her appreciation for the vision and the opportunity to move forward. She stated she would like to see funds set aside to demolish the house to further preserve the neighborhood.

Motion by Smith, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-53 accepting the purchase of the tax reverted property located at 874 Lyons Rd.

Yeas: Smith, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Motion by Smith, supported by VanSlambrouck, to go into Closed Session to discuss a City Manager Agreement.

Yeas: Smith, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes
Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council and Closed Session held on June 2, 2014 and minutes from the Special Meeting and Closed Session held on June 7, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$121,115.59 and payroll in the amount of \$173,054.01 for a total of \$294,169.60. A purchase order to SLC Meter LLC for 250 bronze Badger meter bodies in the amount of \$11,000.00 was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Mayor Barnes clarified that alcohol is only allowed in the City parks that are signed, and is not allowed on the River Trail. There was some confusion regarding this issue at the June 2nd Council meeting.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Smith asked for an update on the Master Plan process.

Interim City Manager Reagan stated that Paul Lippens, of McKenna & Associates, was at the June 11th Planning Commission meeting. He presented data and took comment on the results of the survey they conducted. He is currently working on the draft to present in July.

Council Member Smith also inquired about the status of the RFP to update the City's website.

Interim City Manager Reagan stated that two RFP's have been received, they are due June 27th. All of them will be evaluated at the same time.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented that the VFW Golf Outing held on June 14th was a huge success.

The Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:34 P.M.

The Council returned from Closed Session at 8:16 P.M.

The Council considered Resolution 14-54 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign an agreement with S. Tutt Gorman for services as City Manager.

Mayor Barnes stated that Mr. Gorman would begin his service with the City of Portland on July 14, 2014 at salary of \$85,384.00.

Motion by Smith, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-54 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign an agreement between S. Tutt Gorman and the City of Portland for services as City Manager.

Yeas: Smith, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum

Adopted

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated this nay vote is based on compensation and not on his selection of Mr. Gorman as City Manager.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Smith, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk