



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 5, 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, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Electric Superintendent Davlin; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink; Mike Judd

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the proposed Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported Ionia County is developing an Emergency Management Plan which allow the City of Portland and other jurisdictions in the County to qualify for certain grants. City Council will consider a Resolution of Support for the plan at its meeting on June 19, 2023.

Planning and design continues for the Kent Street Improvement Project. The City has been working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and The Right Place to create a revised application for the RAP grant – Round 2. Funds from this grant would revitalize the parcel purchased by the DDA at 103 E. Grand River Ave. and Kent St.

The DDA held the Façade Pitch Program event on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at ConfluxCity Brewing. First prize was awarded to Courageous Coffee, second place was awarded to Fabiano's River House Bar & Grill, and third place was awarded to the Civic Players. City Manager Gorman provided further information regarding the painting of murals in the City, the plan for Courageous Coffee includes the painting of a mural on the side of their building. He stated that at this time murals are allowed under the Sign Ordinance.

City Manager Gorman noted he is continuing to pursue \$8 million in funding through State of Michigan appropriations to complete work on the Wastewater Collections System that had to be cut from the current project due to increased costs. The request for funding was voted down 18-20 this week, there is still hope as funding could still be approved in the upcoming conference committee.

Electric Superintendent Davlin presented information on the need for a new substation for the City's electric infrastructure. The current substation is almost at the end of its life expectancy and will be decommissioned when the new substation is complete.

There was discussion.

Under Presentation, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented her report on DDA activities.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading and considered Ordinance 194E to address revisions to the Sign Ordinance related to election signs.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Ordinance 194E to address revisions to the Sign Ordinance related to election signs.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council held the Second Reading and considered Ordinance 175UU to revise the City Zoning Map to rezone the Rindlehaven property from TND PUD to R-2 Traditional Residential District.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Ordinance 175UU to revise the City Zoning Map to rezone the Rindlehaven property from TND PUD to R-2 Traditional Residential District.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

City Manager Gorman presented information regarding the need for a license agreement for Rivers Edge Grill, located at 160 Kent St., to hang shade sails across the Boardwalk for outside seating purposes.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to authorize City Manager Gorman to draft and execute a License Agreement for Rivers Edge Grill to hang shade sails across the Boardwalk for outside seating purposes.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-37 to apply for \$250,000 in funding through MDOT from the Transportation Economic Development Category B Program to construct roadway improvements on Hill St.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink provided information on Category B funding and explained why the Hill St. Improvement Project is good candidate for funding through this program. The request is for 2025 construction which corresponds to the timeline in the Capital Improvement Program.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-37 to establish a request for funding, designate an agent, attest to the existence of funds, and commit to implementing a maintenance program for roadway improvements on Hill St. funded by the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on May 15, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$150,118.07 and payroll in the amount of \$122,899.89 for a total of \$273,017.96. Purchase orders to

Total Technical Assurance in the amount of \$5,440.05 for Fiber Broadband Consulting, Westphalia Electric in the amount of \$6,600.00 for City Hall lighting – LED conversion, M Power Innovations in the amount of \$6,950.00 for GIS services, and NTH Consultants, Ltd. in the amount of \$12,500.00 for compliance testing were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the third-grade classes from Westwood Elementary School visited City Hall mid-May. It was a great opportunity to teach them about local government.

City Manager Gorman thanked DPW Director Gensterblum, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Director Brown and City staff for their preparations for the Memorial Holiday.

City Manager Gorman further noted the Splash Pad is open for the summer. Daily hours are 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Johnston, noted the Portland District Library will hold its Summer Reading Extravaganza on Friday, June 9, 2023.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the Ionia County Fire Departments will receive their new 800 MHz radios soon. This will allow communication between emergency personnel throughout the County.

Mayor Barnes thanked all the individuals that have applied to serve on City Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Barnes further noted June 14, 2023, is Flag Day, which commemorates the adoption of the design of the U.S. Flag.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk