

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 19, 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; Ambulance Director Gensterblum; Paramedic Chartrand; Police Chief Knobelsdorf; Police Sergeant Ludwick; Police Officers Thomas, Tietsma, Heald, Groenhof, and Fandel

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Roxanne Tietsma; Joe Russman, Starla Robertson and Brandon Martin with the Portland Rodeo; 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 led by Brandon Martin.

Motion by Smith, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Proposed Revised Agenda.

Yeas: Smith, VanSlambrouck, 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 also reported the Downtown Block Party was held Saturday, May 17th. Although the weather was not optimal, hundreds of people came down to enjoy the successful event.

McKenna Associates has been working on the 2014 Master Plan update, branded "Portland Vision 2040." They have held three community input sessions on Wednesday, May 14th, a public open house on Saturday, May 17th and a table at the Block Party. A lot of feedback has been received. McKenna Associates has setup a survey on Survey Monkey as well as a Facebook site to gain further insights and opinions.

Under Presentations, Police Chief Knobelsdorf presented service awards to Sergeant Ludwick and Police Officers Tietsma, Thomas, Heald, and Groenhof in recognition of their extraordinary service to the community of Portland.

Ambulance Director Gensterblum and Paramedic Chartrand presented information on the Community Paramedicine Program being developed to provide outreach to patients at risk for using the emergency medical or in-patient healthcare system for primary care services, and helping them find more appropriate resources for their medical needs. Providing these services may take many forms, and is based on filling gaps for local needs. The program would be funded by grants until legislation in Michigan is passed. The Portland Ambulance Department would like to be a leader in this innovative form of care.

Joe Russman of the Portland Rodeo presented information on the family friendly, fun-filled, rodeo planned for Friday and Saturday, June 13th and 14th.

Under Old Business, the Council removed the consideration of Ordinance 175HH, to rezone the property at 223 Charlotte Hwy. from C-2 to R-2, from the table.

Motion by Smith, supported by Sunstrum, to remove Ordinance 175HH to amend the City Zoning Map from the table for consideration.

This ordinance was tabled at the last Council meeting at the request of Terry Frewen, realtor for the property at 223 Charlotte Hwy. As of earlier this evening, Mr. Frewen stated the loan application for this property is currently under review. He asked the Council to table this second reading.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under New Business, the First Reading of Ordinance 167E to extend the life of the DDA from its current end date of 2018 to 2038 was held. At their January 16, 2014 regular meeting, the DDA approved this plan and requested the City Council set a Public Hearing date of March 3, 2014. All notices were published and mailed per PA 197 of 1975. City Staff has received no formal comment, either before the hearing, at the hearing, or during the required 60-day period between the Public Hearing and the First Reading.

The Council considered Resolution 14-41 to approve Abraham & Gaffney's proposal to provide professional audit services for 2014, 2015, and 2016 years. Finance Officer Schrauben has worked closely with the auditors from Abraham & Gaffney and is recommending the Council approve their proposal, similar to the one signed with the same in 2010.

Council Member Smith thanked Finance Officer Schrauben for her efforts in negotiating a new contract with 1.75% increase rather than the proposed 3% increase.

Motion by Smith, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-41 approving Abraham & Gaffney's proposal to provide professional audit services.

Yeas: Smith, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-42 to approve a Request for Proposals (RFP) to redesign the City of Portland website as requested by Council Members at its Budget Workshop. A new City website would be designed to enhance communications and would be interactive and engaging.

Council Member Smith commented she had originally suggested an updated website at the Council Goal Session in January in effort for Portland to "keep up" in the interest of economic development.

Mayor Barnes commented that Interim City Manager Dempsey did a good job putting together the RFP.

Council Member Sunstrum stated she reviewed the RFP and gave it her seal of approval.

Motion by Smith, supported by Sunstrum, to approve Resolution 14-42 approving a Request for Proposals for a redesigned City of Portland website.

Yeas: Smith, Sunstrum, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-43 to approve Frederickson's Supply, LLC's proposal for repairs to the Vac-Con Vactor Truck that experienced an operating failure during the course of cleaning storm drains on May 12th. Inspection of the vehicle found the vacuum compressor assembly unit had experienced a catastrophic failure and would require a complete rebuild of the aforementioned vacuum compressor assembly unit in order for the vehicle to function as designed. The Vactor Truck is a critical piece of equipment used to clean sanitary and storm sewer lines, hydro-excavating, and during routine wastewater plant maintenance.

Mayor Barnes noted that a new vactor truck had been included in the cost of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements but due to cost overruns the purchase was not feasible. A refurbished unit was purchased instead, not it has broken down.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sunstrum, to approve Resolution 14-43 approving Frederickson's Supply, LLC's proposal for repairs to the Vac-Con Vactor Truck.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Smith, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes inquired about the need for a new manhole on Bridge St. to prevent backups at Hometown Sports, as noted in the monthly Wastewater Department Report.

Interim City Manager Reagan stated there is an offset in that area where the lines are no longer properly aligned that continues to cause problems.

Mayor Barnes suggested that whatever is needed to facilitate the appropriate repairs should be expedited.

Motion by Smith, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council meeting held on May 5, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$105,382.81 and payroll in the amount of \$123,227.96 for a total of \$228,610.77. A purchase order to Resco in the amount of \$7,397.50 for wire was also included.

Yeas: Smith, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sunstrum, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Communications, Mayor Barnes noted the 1st Annual "Our Dog Park" Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, June 21st at 10:00 A.M. to raise funds to construct a dog park.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes also noted the Block Party was a great event.

Mayor Barnes further noted that approximately ten resumes have been received for the City Manager position, they will continue to be accepted through May 30th. A closed session to evaluate resumes received will be held during the June 2nd Council meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Main Street Manager Perry on the successful Block Party, it was a great event. He also reminded residents that Master Plan update process is still underway, they should make sure to share their thoughts and vision for Portland.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sunstrum, Smith, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk