



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday, July 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; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Josh Haley, Aid for Representative Gina Johnsen; Senator Rick Outman; Tom, Ellen, and Steve Antaya; Mike Judd; AJ Vogl; DDA Chair Cory Grimminck, and DDA Members Margery Briggs, and April Vogl

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that Portland was granted \$3 million through the State of Michigan appropriations process for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. He thanked State Representative Gina Johnsen, Senator Rick Outman, and their staff for their support and efforts to secure this critical funding for the City of Portland.

Construction continues on the Fiber Broadband Project through Homeworks Connect.

City Manager Gorman noted last week he met with lobbyist from Dykema on behalf of Crown Castle, whose customer is Verizon Wireless. They are pursuing their interest in installing a small cell component related to 5G infrastructure in the City of Portland.

Consumers Energy is beginning an initiative to underground their electric utility service. City Manager Gorman noted he was contacted by local media to explain Portland's experience and benefits in doing so. The City of Portland's electric infrastructure is more than 90% underground.

On June 22, 2023, stakeholders with the Ionia County Economic Alliance met at ConfluxCity Brewing.

The fireworks in Portland were held Friday, June 30, 2023, and the Girl Scouts organized the 4th of July parade held on July 4, 2023. Both were great events for the community. He further thanked emergency service personnel and local volunteers for their contribution to these events.

City Manager Gorman congratulated Tom Antaya for his 35 years of service to the Downtown Development Authority and further thanked him for his dedication to the Portland community.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes thanked Tom Antaya for his dedication and service to the Portland community.

Senator Outman and Josh Haley, representing Representative Johnsen, presented Tom Antaya with a Special Tribute for his 35 years of service to the City of Portland.

DDA Director ConnerWellman and Members of the DDA presented Tom Antaya with a tribute commemorating his 35 years of service to the City of Portland. DDA Director ConnerWellman stated that Mr. Antaya has been an anchor and guide to her during time with the City of Portland.

Mr. Antaya stated that over his 40 years in the City of Portland he has touched every department in the City of Portland in some manner. He further noted the City has always been great to work with and its investment in income tax and infrastructure has not only been good for the community but has been good for his store. He has had great appreciation for the City and its leaders over the years.

Director ConnerWellman provided her report on DDA activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 23-46 to approve a payment in the amount of \$1,236,350.39 for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-46 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-47 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to various Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on June 19, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$152,360.36 and payroll in the amount of \$135,633.77 for a total of \$287,994.13. Purchase orders to West Michigan International, LLC in the amount of \$7,143.36 for repairs to No. 949, Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$39,822.38 for a heating system for the generators, and the Portland Area Municipal Authority in the amount of \$49,327.84 for building repairs were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

City Manager Gorman had no further comments.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted that per the Arbor Day Foundation, the City of Portland has again been named a Tree City USA and he further thanked the Parks Department for their efforts in making this possible.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Manager Gorman for his efforts in facilitating the great fireworks event.

He also noted the Semi quincennial; 250th Anniversary, of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will take place in 2026.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked April Vogl for volunteering to serve on the DDA.

He also thanked State Representatives Gina Johnsen and Angela Witwer for their efforts in awarding Portland the \$3 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Council Member Fitzsimmons noted the funds approved on the Consent Agenda for building repairs to the emergency services building facilitated by the Portland Area Municipal Authority should complete the upgrades planned.

There was discussion of the \$3 million in funding received from the State of Michigan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Council Member Sheehan thanked everyone involved with the 4th of July parade held yesterday. It was a great small-town event.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk