

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 20, 2014

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Smith, Fitzsimmons, and Butler; City Clerk Miller; DDA/Main Street Director Reagan; Police Chief Knobelsdorf

Absent: City Manager Gorman

Guests: Pastor Dan Stemen of the Portland Nazarene Church; 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 Agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Smith, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Pastor Dan Stemen of the Portland Nazarene Church addressed the Council on behalf of the congregation, the church board and families that use the church day care in regard to the upcoming Cutler Road Project. They are very excited and thankful a new road will be constructed as many issues will be ended. Pastor Stemen further stated that after reviewing plans for the proposed construction it appears that sewer lines will not be brought up to the church property, but will come off from Charlotte Hwy. and stop in front of Portland Federal Credit Union. He also stated that he was previously told by former City Manager Dempsey that the assessment to the church for the project would be approximately \$4,000 and now they are finding out the cost will be around \$7,000. This additional cost will be a hardship for the church.

Mayor Barnes thanked Pastor Stemen and the church for their patience while the City has worked toward moving forward with this project. He noted that the \$375,000 in Federal funds that the City will receive, due to the efforts of former City Manager Dempsey, for the project is being subtracted from the total for the assessment calculations. City Ordinance requires that adjacent property owners be charged by linear frontage when a new road is constructed in the City. Mayor Barnes also stated that prior costs were based on early estimates, the actual costs could not be calculated until the bids were received and project awarded. He further stated that he is familiar with the issue regarding the sewer lines but will be sure to follow up. Mayor Barnes stated the City will work with the Church in any way it can; in the most economical way possible.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan gave a report on activities in downtown Portland. The 2014 Big Beer 5K Run was held on Saturday, October 18th with 46 runners participating. HolidayFest will be held November 21st and 22nd in downtown Portland in conjunction with the Portland Community Arts Council. The event will feature horse-drawn carriage rides, the

annual snowball drop on Maple Street, a window decorating contest, the annual parade of lights, and new this year will be an ice carving demonstration. The Gallery Brewery at 143 Kent Street opened their doors on Friday night. They had a great couple of nights on Friday and Saturday. The Second Annual Portland Historic Cemetery Walk will be held on Sunday, October 26th at 3:00 P.M. The event is organized by the Portland Area Historical Society and Portland Main Street.

DDA/Main Street Director Reagan thanked Shelley Perry for serving as Interim Main Street Manager while he was serving as Interim Assistant City Manager, she did a great job serving in this capacity.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 14-92 to accept the quote from Trust Thermal for asbestos inspections at two vacant City-owned properties at 874 Lyons Road and 628 Canal Street. City Staff has determined that both properties should be demolished due to their dilapidated state and for future public purposes. Per the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, created under the Clean Air Act of 1973, dwellings to be demolished for public purposes must be inspected for asbestos prior to demolition.

Motion by Smith, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 14-92 accepting the quote from Trust Thermal for asbestos inspections for the City-owned properties located at 874 Lyons Road and 628 Canal Street.

Yeas: Smith, Butler, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-93 to approve the application for a Development Rights Agreement between Brent & Mandie Hoppes, who own vacant property at 1160 Divine Hwy., and the State of Michigan. The Hoppes' submitted an application for a Farmland Agreement under the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program. City Staff has reviewed the application and determined the 29.35 acre parcel they own qualified under Michigan law because it is undeveloped land between five and forty acres, more than 50% of the land is agriculturally active and the land produces a gross annual income greater than \$200 per tillable acre. The application was forwarded to the Ionia County Soil Conservation District in compliance with the PA 116 rules and the organization was afforded a thirty-day comment period and no comment was received.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-93 approving the application for a Development Rights Agreement between Brent & Mandie Hoppes and the State of Michigan.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 14-94 to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Cory Grimminck to the Downtown Development Authority and Kathy Foote to the Economic Development Corporation.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-94 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

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

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 October 6, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$143,688.21 and payroll in the amount of \$148,135.03 for a total of \$291,823.24. Also included was a purchase order to Compass Minerals American in the amount of \$33,847.36 for road salt.

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

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked all the individuals that helped support the Big Beer Run over the weekend.

Mayor Barnes commented that he just came from the Open House at the Sparrow Medical Group in Portland where they introduced the new doctors on staff, which include a pediatrician.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk