



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 21, 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; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons; 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 Johnston, to approve the proposed Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated bids for repairs to the Boardwalk are due September 7, 2023. Once the bids are in and the cost of the repairs is determined the City can plan for the timing of the repairs, while taking caution to plan around the Kent Street Improvement Project so they do not occur at the same time.

The final review of the Kent Street Improvement Project Plans will be held later this week with City Staff and Engineers.

Ionia County is in the process of transitioning to 800 MHz radios countywide. Consideration has not been given to transitioning the tornado sirens throughout the County, these sirens work with different technology. City Manager Gorman stated he is reaching out to the County to understand what is needed to maintain the operation of the tornado sirens so as not to jeopardize public safety.

There was further discussion.

City Manager Gorman noted the owner of Rivers Edge Grill is interested in serving alcohol on the boardwalk. Typically, this would be allowed if approved by the Liquor Control Commission and the standards of the City's Zoning Ordinance are met. In this instance, the City is working to find a solution to allow this use while keeping in mind the pedestrian easement on the Boardwalk.

The Electric Department continues work on the Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. Proposals were received and vendor meetings were held to review each before Vision Metering was selected as the vendor. Potential grant funding should be determined in the next few weeks and then the agreement with the vendor can be executed.

The DDA continues to work on its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan.

City Manager Gorman presented the newly refreshed City of Portland website. The refreshed website has a new design, improved navigation, and searchability. He thanked City Clerk Miller for her efforts in improving the website. He further noted the City will continue to work to improve the content and functionality of the website.

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 23-53 to approve a Uniform Rental Agreement with Cintas.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-53 approving a Uniform Rental Agreement renewal with Cintas.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-54 to approve an Employee Referral Program Policy in order to help with staffing issues, a nationwide issue, in the Ambulance Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-54 approving a City Employee Referral Program Policy.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-55 to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford Police Interceptor in the amount of \$46,921.00 for the Police Department. The Police Department maintains a fleet of three vehicles, to keep them in good working condition, a new vehicle is purchased every two years resulting in six years of usage.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 23-55 approving the purchase of a 2024 Ford Police Interceptor for the Portland Police Department.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-56 to approve a payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$1,576,523.39 for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-56 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on August 7, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$118,760.88 and payroll in the amount of \$148,164.56 for a total of \$266,925.44. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$5,160.00 for services related to Boardwalk repairs, Bloom

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Sluggitt in the amount of \$6,905.00 for July legal services, and Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$11,100.00 for services related to the Kent Street Improvement Project were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted Beerfest on the Bridge held Saturday, August 12, 2023, and was a great event.

Community Day will be held this Saturday, August 26, 2023, at the Red Mill Pavilion and the Portland Jr. Raiders will also host its annual Game-O-Rama at the Portland Middle School.

The first day of school is tomorrow, Wednesday, August 22, 2023. He reminded everyone to drive safely and watch for kids.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted Beerfest on the Bridge was a great event. He thanked the many volunteers for their help in making it successful.

Mayor Barnes also noted the letter from the auditors from Maner Costerisan in the communications that marks the start of the audit process next month.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk