



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 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; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Diane Jones of Meadowbrook Insurance; 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 stated there was significant storm damage to both public and private property because of a severe thunderstorm that occurred on Thursday, August 24, 2023. The tornado sirens had been scheduled to be tested the next day, on Friday, but the testing was canceled due to the severe weather. A local State of Emergency has been declared and Ionia County has been added to the Emergency Declaration by Governor Whitmer. He thanked DPW Director Gensterblum, Chief Thomas, and their staff for their responsiveness and efforts both during and after the event. He further noted that clean up efforts are going to take some time.

As part of the transition to 800 MHz radios throughout Ionia County the tornado sirens were tested this past Saturday, September 2, 2023. The siren located in the City Hall parking lot was not working correctly and repairs have been scheduled.

Work with Fleis & VandenBrink continues on both the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project and planning for the Kent Street Improvement Project. An update to Council on both projects is planned for September 18, 2023.

Construction on installation of the fiber infrastructure continues to move along well on the west side of Portland. The City of Portland is working with its IT representatives and Homeworks to evaluate updates to its IT services and networking to take advantage of improved technology.

A vendor has been selected for the Electric Department's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology. Once it has been determined if grant funding is available, the contract will be presented to Council for consideration.

City Manager Gorman noted he continues to work with City attorneys and the owner of Rivers Edge Grill on his request to serve alcohol on the Boardwalk. Consideration is being given to creating a social district in the future, but it is more likely a license agreement will be proposed.

The Planning Commission will consider a rezoning request from Tru Family Dental at its meeting on October 11, 2023.

City Manager Gorman noted he is meeting with the developer of the Rindlehaven property on Friday, September 8, 2023.

The Ionia County Economic Alliance continues to discuss the potential development of a mega site proposed in Grand Ledge, which would have a significant impact on the City of Portland.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 23-57 to adopt right-of-way regulations and standards.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-57 regarding the adoption of Right-of-Way Regulations and Standards.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-58 to approve a Cyber Insurance Policy for the City of Portland.

Diane Jones, of Meadowbrook Insurance, provided information on the proposed policy.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-58 approving a Cyber Insurance Policy for the City of Portland.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-59 to approve the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to approve an Amended Energy Services Project Power Purchase Commitment for Solar Power.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-59 approving the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to approve, authorize, and direct the Member Authorized Representative to sign the Energy Services Project Amended and Restated Power Purchase Commitment Authorization for Solar Power.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-60 to approve payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$632,383.40 for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 23-60 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, 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 21, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$76,407.28 and payroll in the amount of \$155,651.35 for a total of \$232,058.63. Purchase orders to CHOP in the amount of \$5,300.80 for removal of 28 trees, M Power in the amount of \$6,600.00 for GIS professional services, Civic Plus in the amount of \$8,482.99 for annual website service, Cook Brothers Excavating in the amount of \$9,085.00 for prep work for a new section in the cemetery, and D&E Electric in the amount of \$9,230.00 for installation of engine heaters for the power plant generators were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents about the brush removal process and noted this service is for City residents only.

He wished Portland Express the best of luck as they participate in the MiPitch campaign on September 21, 2023.

City Manager Gorman thanked Diane Jones for her assistance and meaningful discussion regarding the Cyber Insurance Policy.

There were no Council Member comments.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk