



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 2, 2023

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Electric Superintendent Davlin; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Officer Smith

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Kyle Kopczyk of Power System Engineering (PSE), Inc.; Jesse Danielewicz of Vision Metering

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the proposed Revised Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman provided information on the cellular outage that occurred Thursday, September 21, 2023, and into the weekend. A main AT&T line that provided service to the local cell tower was hit by contractors of Homeworks Connect for the fiber project. Homeworks Connect was very responsive to the issue and are communicating their apologies to area residents. City Manager Gorman noted this has been an eye-opening event in understanding the need for redundancy of services.

Mayor Barnes noted it is a compliment to the City and staff regarding their ability to address and communicate relevant information to the community. All area residents look to the City of Portland for information even though they may live in one of the surrounding townships.

City Manager Gorman noted the City expects to receive the \$3 million in funding from the State of Michigan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project sometime in the month of October.

Anlaan Corporation plans to make repairs to the Boardwalk October 16th – 23rd. This project is taking place this Fall so that necessary repairs will be finished before the Kent Street Improvement Project begins Spring 2024.

The Planning Commission will hold two Public Hearings at its meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. One of the Public Hearings is to consider a rezoning request for TruFamily Dental located at 155 Rowe Ave. The second Public Hearing is to consider a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding fences.

Under Presentations, Electric Superintendent Todd Davlin, Kyle Kopczyk of PSE Engineering, and Jesse Danielewicz of Vision Metering, presented information on the upcoming Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project.

There was discussion.

Electric Superintendent Davlin presented an update on maintenance work taking place at the Hydro Electric Dam. Last week divers performed work on some of the under-water components. More work is scheduled in the future.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented a report on Downtown activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 23-67 to approve the purchase of an air compressor, in the amount of \$13,387.50, that is needed to replace the air compressors required to start the natural gas/diesel generators.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-67 approving the purchase of an air compressor for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-68 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 that requires all electric utilities to charge up to \$.99 per month on customer bills to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. The City of Portland has previously adopted electric shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shutoffs from November 1 to April 15.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-68 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-69 to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House at the Red Mill to raise funds for the Red Mill Pavilion Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-69 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit holding a Haunted House at the Red Mill.

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on September 18, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$160,285.46 and payroll in the amount of \$147,262.33 for a total of \$307,547.79. Purchase orders to CBIZ in the amount of \$5,300.00 for an actuarial valuation, Kurt Hinds Building & Renovation in the amount of \$7,109.22 for maintenance at the well houses, and Off and Running Painting in the amount of \$11,400.00 for painting at City Hall were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman read a memo from Ambulance Director Sowles outlining the successful life saving measures that were directly attributed to assistance from the Portland Police Department.

City Manager Gorman noted Portland is still under a local State of Emergency from the severe thunderstorms that occurred on August 24, 2023. Brush cleanup is still underway.

Halloween is Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Trick-or-treating will take place from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. The sirens will be sounded to begin and end trick-or-treating.

The lighting in City Hall was converted to LED last week. It has made a significant difference in the lighting quality. New painting will take place soon.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes extended his appreciation to both the Ambulance and Police Departments for their hard work and efforts.

Mayor Barnes shared the concert schedule for the Portland Community Orchestra.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk