



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 20, 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; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Kathy Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by City Clerk Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Miller administered the Oath of Office to Council Members Barnes, VanSlambrouck, and Fitzsimmons.

City Clerk Miller took nominations for the office of Mayor.

Council Member VanSlambrouck noted that it is an honor to serve on the City Council and that he is proud to nominate Council Member Barnes as Mayor.

Council Member Johnston supported the nomination.

City Clerk Miller held the vote for the nomination of Barnes for Mayor.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes echoed the sentiments of Council Member VanSlambrouck and stated that it is an honor to serve on the City Council and opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Council Member Johnston, supported by Council Member Sheehan, nominated Council Member VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Barnes held the vote for the nomination of Council Member VanSlambrouck for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the City Council Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, went very smoothly and further stated what a pleasure it is to work with the Council.

The bonding process for the Electric Department Substation and Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Projects is underway.

The audit of Fiscal Year 2022/2023 is complete. The Auditors will present their findings to the City Council at their meeting on December 4, 2023.

Construction on the Fiber Project continues with an aggressive schedule. Representatives of Homeworks Connect will present an update to the Council at their meeting on December 4, 2023.

The Kent Street Improvement Project will be let for bids in December. City Manager Gorman stated he will meet with the engineers on the project to evaluate the best way to communicate information to business owners and residents.

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading and considered Ordinance 167F to adopt an update to the Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Financing Plan.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to adopt Ordinance 167F to approve the Year 2023 Amendment to the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan proposed by the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Portland and to provide for the collection of tax increment revenues.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-79 to end the moratorium on issuing permits for fences and walls. The Planning Commission has considered and recommended new language regarding the construction of fences and walls and the City Council has approved the recommended language through the ordinance adoption process.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-79 ending the moratorium on the issuance of Zoning Permits for fences and walls.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-80 to approve a Metro Act Right-of-Way Permit extension for AT&T.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-80 approving a Metro Act Right-of-Way Permit extension for AT&T.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-81 to approve a one-time contribution of \$100,000.00 to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System for the Electric Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 23-81 approving an additional payment for the Electric Department to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) to reduce the City's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-82 to authorize the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for an Off-Premises Tasting Room License application to sell wine manufactured by Love Wines, LLC by The Port, located at 143 Kent Street.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-82 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for an Off-Premises Tasting Room License Application for Love Wines, LLC.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on November 6, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$151,181.77 and payroll in the amount of \$154,139.08 for a total of \$305,320.85. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents that no parking is allowed on City streets between 2:00 and 6:00 A.M. from November 1st through April 1st.

Loose leaf pickup will end on Monday, December 4, 2023. After that date leaves should be placed in yard waste bags and left at the curb or taken to the compost pile at Bogue Flats.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW will host its annual free Thanksgiving Dinner for the members of the community on Thanksgiving from noon to 2:00 P.M.

Mayor Barnes recognized the Portland High School football team for its accomplishments this season earning titles as League Champions, District Champions, and Regional Champions.

Council Member Johnston extended her appreciation to the Portland community for how well they support the high school athletes in Portland.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents that Small Business Saturday will take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023, and HolidayFest will be held Saturday, December 9, 2023.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk