



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 4, 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; Finance Director Tolan; Police Chief Thomas; Electric Supervisor Davlin

Guests: State Representative Gina Johnsen; Chris O'Neill, CEO, Brandon Trierweiler, and Kacey Thelen of Homeworks Connect; Bill Tucker of Maner Costerisan; Kathy Parsons

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 the Kent Street Improvement Project was let for bids. The lowest bidder on the project is CL Trucking at \$2.1 million. He further stated he will be meeting with the engineers on the project to develop a communication strategy which will include public workshops.

The bonding process is underway for the Electric Department substation and Automatic Meter Infrastructure (AMI) projects. The City received a very good interest rate on the bonds at 3.9%.

Under Presentations, State Representative Johnsen thanked the City Council for their work and noted she was recently reminded of the significance of Portland receiving the \$3 million from the State of Michigan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Mayor Barnes thanked Representative Johnsen for her efforts to secure funding for Portland.

City Manager Gorman noted the \$3 million will be used to fund the river crossing and other items that had previously been cut from the project.

Brandon Trierweiler and Kacey Thelen of Homeworks Connect presented the history of the company and information on the current Fiber Project in the City of Portland.

Mayor Barnes noted the significance and benefit of having Homeworks Connect in Portland.

Chris O'Neill noted the game changing potential for the Portland community with the expandable opportunities available with fiber infrastructure.

There was discussion.

Bill Tucker of Maner Costerisan, presented the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Audit and stated the City was issued an unmodified, clean opinion on all units of finance which is the best audit that can be received.

Under New Business, the Council considered accepting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Audit.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to accept the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Audit as presented by Maner Costerisan.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 180B for a Consumers Energy Gas Franchise.

City Manager Gorman noted this is a 10-year renewal. Ordinance 180A approved a 10-year agreement in 2013.

The Council considered Resolution 23-83 to approve an AMI System Master Agreement with Vision Metering, LLC. The Board of Light and Power has reviewed and recommended the agreement for approval by the City Council.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-83 to approve an AMI System Master Agreement with Vision Metering, LLC.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-84 to authorize the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for a Redevelopment Liquor License for the property located at 111 E. Grand River Ave for Clase Azul, Inc.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 23-84 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for a Redevelopment Liquor License for the property located at 111 E. Grand River Ave.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-85 to authorize the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station at the hydroelectric plant, for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, at a cost of \$8,000.00.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-85 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for the operation of a Streamgaging Station.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-86 to approve a proposal from NTH Consultants Ltd., in the amount of \$15,000.00, to provide environmental compliance services to the Electric Department for its diesel engines.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 23-86 approving a proposal from NTH Consultants, Ltd. to provide environmental compliance services to the Electric Department related to the operation of its diesel engines.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-87 to approve a payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$806,840.70, for work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-87 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-88 to approve the 2024 City Council meeting dates.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, approving the 2024 City Council meeting dates.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on November 20, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$676,253.20 and payroll in the amount of \$191,347.73 for a total of \$867,600.93. Purchase orders to Michigan Wood Fibers in the amount of \$17,060.00 for removal of the compost pile, and Nutri-Grow in the amount of \$21,060.00 for biosolids land application were included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted HolidayFest will be held Saturday, December 9, 2023.

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 thanked State Representative Johnsen for her work securing the funding for Portland.

Council Member Johnston recognized the positive segment on Fox 47 that highlighted the Soup Project in Portland, started, and administered by Michelle VanSlambrouck,

Council Member Sheehan thanked the VFW for hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. She and her family enjoyed it very much.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk