



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 18, 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; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: 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 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 stated Holidayfest, held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, was a great event for the community. He thanked Tim Fuller and the downtown business owners for facilitating and participating in the building lighting that was synchronized to music.

City Manager Gorman addressed concerns expressed that the Police Department did not lead the light parade. They were unable to participate in the parade due to staffing issues and police-related duties.

Mayor Barnes thanked Chief Thomas for her efforts in running the Police Department and noted his understanding of the difficulties involved with that duty.

City Manager Gorman clarified the confusion regarding the Redevelopment Liquor License approved by Council at its last meeting with Resolution 23-84. The proposed liquor license was presumed to be for the existing Don Jose Mexican Grill located at 117 E. Grand River Ave. with the address in error as 111 E.

Grand River Ave. It has been determined the liquor license is in fact for the property at 111 E. Grand River Ave. and the owner will be redeveloping the property with plans to open this time next year.

Consumers Energy will begin upgrades to its gas infrastructure ahead of the Kent Street Improvement Project. This project will kick off around January 8th.

The City of Portland was awarded \$112,000.00 (with a \$37,500 match) through the DNR Passport Grant for repairs to the River Trail. Repairs will take place from Bridge Street along Thompson Field and Market Street to Kent Street. Portland was awarded the highest number of points of all applicants.

City Manager Gorman provided a synopsis of the significant projects that have taken place in the past and in 2023 and those yet to come in 2024 and 2025. He further thanked Council and staff for their leadership and hard work.

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council held the Second Reading and considered Ordinance 180B for a Consumers Energy Gas Franchise.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Ordinance 180B for a Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 23-89 to approve energy purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency to secure electric power and energy for present and future needs.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 23-89 approving energy purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council approved Resolution 23-90 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 23-90 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, 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 December 4, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$149,047.97 and payroll in the amount of \$163,163.74 for a total of \$312,211.71. Purchase orders to VC3, Inc. in the amount of \$7,173.00 for firewall and subnet expansion, and Dickinson Wright in the amount of \$24,500.00 for electric bond counsel fees and expenses were included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

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Absent: Fitzsimmons
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents loose leaf pickup ended on Monday, December 4, 2023. Leaves should now be placed in yard waste bags and left at the curb or can be taken to the compost pile at Bogue Flats.

Trash contains should not be placed in street but should always be placed in the driveway or curb lawn area.

City Manager Gorman noted the City Council Goal Session to kickoff the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget process will be held at the end of January.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk