



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 8, 2024

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 Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman shared information on the fire that occurred at Edgemont Apartments, 240 Charlotte Hwy., on Friday, January 5, 2023, and the heroic efforts of DPW employee Ryan Honsowitz and Police Officer Chris Walker. They both happened to be in the area performing their duties when each noticed smoke. They went to the building and immediately began evacuating 21 residents. Their actions undoubtedly saved lives. Fireman Jake Schafer evacuated one other resident once the Fire Department was on scene.

In addition, there were multiple Fire Departments from the surrounding jurisdictions that provided mutual aid for the fire. The community has once again demonstrated how it comes together to support those in need in times of crisis.

Mayor Barnes shared further comments on the remarkable staff of the City of Portland. Residents of Edgemont Apartments could be in a much different situation had they not acted quickly and went above and beyond their normal duties.

City Manager Gorman stated Sunfield Township has requested to contract with the Ambulance Department for service to its residents. The addition of another jurisdiction to the service area for the Ambulance Department says a lot about the value of emergency services in the City of Portland.

City Manager Gorman further shared information about Ambulance personnel assisting with the birth of neonatal twins that went very well.

Consumers Energy began work on the 100 block of Kent St. to update gas services ahead of the upcoming Kent Street Improvement Project. The project is expected to take 4 to 6 weeks. The Kent Street

Improvement Project is expected to kick off April 1st with tree removals and public workshops to take place over the next couple of months.

City Council will kickoff the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget process with a budget workshop on Monday, February 12, 2024.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented the Downtown report.

Under New Business, the Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 79B to change language on parking tickets and to allow for the impoundment of vehicles for unpaid parking tickets.

The Council considered Resolution 24-01 to accept the terms of the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program Development Project for renovation of the River Trail from Bridge Street, along Thompson Field and Market Street, to Kent Street.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-01 accepting the terms of the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program Development Project Agreement for the River Trail Park Renovation RP23-0063.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-02 to approve MDOT Contract No. 23-5475 for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-02 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign MDOT Contract No. 23-5475 related to the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-03 to approve the purchase of a circuit breaker, in the amount of \$95,900.00, for the Grant Street Substation Project for the Electric Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-03 to approve the purchase of a circuit breaker for the Grant Street Substation Project for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-04 to approve a payment to F&V Construction, in the amount of \$366,324.66, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-04 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-05 to confirm the Mayor's appointment to the Board of Review.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-05 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

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 18, 2023, payment of invoices in the amount of \$139,755.65 and payroll in the amount of \$361,591.15 for a total of \$501,346.80. Purchase orders to UIS Scada in the amount of \$5,255.39 to install and troubleshoot a controller, Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$6,813.75 to repair the bearings in a cooling tower, and MFCI in the amount of \$25,275.00 for bond fees were included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted there was a small "blip" in electric service due to failed fuses in switching gear at the Electric Department that was caused by bad cables. The Electric Department will be repairing these cables.

The Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held February 21st and 22nd, 2024.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents to beware of the predicted winter weather event this coming week.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded property owners and residents the City is here to support them throughout the Kent Street Improvement Project.

The Soup Project and Portland Community Fund will hold a fundraiser to support those affected by the fire at Edgemont Apartments at the VFW on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk