



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 22, 2024

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Mayor Barnes

Guests: Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons

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

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to excuse the absence of Mayor Barnes.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman extended his appreciation to the Police Department and Department of Public Works on how they handled the snowstorm last week.

City Manager Gorman provided information regarding the conversations with Ionia County Central Dispatch Director Lance Langdon and his abrupt request to discontinue after hour call services for the City's utilities. The City is working to transition to a call center service which will provide a better experience for residents.

In anticipation of the upcoming expanded fiber network to connect all City departments a new firewall was installed last week.

City Manager Gorman provided information on the recent fiber service outage experienced by Homeworks Connect. The outage was a result of heating and cooling issues at a very large data center in Chicago. He stated that Homeworks Connect has advised they will be looking at ways to create redundancy in its system to prevent this kind of issue in the future.

Council Member Sheehan stated that as a customer of Homeworks Connect she appreciated their communication throughout the outage.

Under Presentations, Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

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

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to adopt Ordinance 79B to amend Chapter 38, Article II, Section 38-74 entitled “Traffic Ticket; Notice of Violation; Content” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portland.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-06 to approve the purchase of a 2023 Stock Braun Chief XL Type III Ambulance in the amount of \$285,618.00.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-06 approving the purchase of a new ambulance.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-07 to authorize negotiations related to the potential sale of the property located at 1800 E. Grand River Ave. Around January 2, 2024, the City received a letter of intent from Martin Commercial Properties, Inc. on behalf of Dick Suwyn related to the potential sale. The City Council has reviewed the letter and desires City Manager Gorman to respond on behalf of the City.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-07 to authorize additional negotiations concerning the sale of 1800 E. Grand River Ave.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-08 to amend and restate the Investment Policy for the City of Portland.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-08 approving an amended and restated Investment Policy for the City.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-09 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-09 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

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 January 8, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$147,451.42 and payroll in the amount of \$155,385.52 for a total of \$302,836.94. A purchase order to the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$5,956.00 for 2024 membership dues was included.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents to clear their sidewalks after a snow fall.

City Manager Gorman stated that he and Lt. Orville Theaker will present a presentation on Disaster Recovery and Response at the Michigan Municipal Executive Conference next week.

City Manager Gorman provided information on the current work by Consumers Energy to upgrade service on Kent Street along with further information on the upcoming Kent Street Improvement Project.

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

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commended Consumers Energy on their work on Kent Street. They have been diligent about keeping as many parking spaces open as possible.

The fundraiser held by The Soup Project and Portland Community Fund to support those affected by the fire at Edgemont Apartments at the VFW on Saturday, January 13, 2024, raised almost \$25,000.00.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel VanSlambrouck, Mayor Pro-Tem

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk