



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 4, 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

Guests: Jon Moxey and Peter Tierney of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons

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

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 the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the annual Ambulance meeting with the participating jurisdictions went very well. There was support for the proposed increase to the per capita fee.

The Federal government has approved an Emergency Declaration for those individuals affected by the severe thunderstorms in August 2023. Representatives of FEMA will be available to meet with residents at the Boston Township Hall in Saranac.

On Saturday, February 23, 2024, there was a fire at the apartment building located at 521 Kent St. where a fatality was discovered. The cause of death is under investigation. The fire was contained to one apartment. City Manager Gorman thanked the emergency personnel for their efforts involving this matter.

City Manager Gorman stated that design renderings for the Kent Street Improvement Project were released last week. Public workshops will be held on March 6, 2024, and March 13, 2024, at City Hall.

The budget process for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 is underway.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information related to the Kent Street Improvement Project.

There was a discussion.

DDA Director ConnerWellman presented the Downtown report.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-16 to approve an Ambulance Services Agreement with Sunfield Township and the Village of Sunfield. This agreement will be prorated for ambulance service for April – June 2024. Sunfield Township and the Village of Sunfield will be included in the upcoming contract period of July 2024 through June 2025.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-16 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreement with Sunfield Township and the Village of Sunfield.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-17 to authorize Green Street to be removed from the City's Act 51 map. Green Street between Grove Street and Union Street is currently included in the City's Act 51 map but does not meet the required criteria so must be removed.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-17 authorizing Green Street to be removed from the City's Act 51 map.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-18 to authorize Island Street to be removed from the City's Act 51 map. Island Street east of Kent Street is currently included in the City's Act 51 map but does not meet the required criteria so must be removed.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-18 authorizing Island Street to be removed from the City's Act 51 map.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-19 to approve and authorize the execution of four Easement Agreements, located at 233 Divine Hwy., 238 Kent Street, 9801 Cutler Rd., and 201 Divine Hwy., with Tri-County Electric Cooperative. The City is willing to grant limited right-of-way easements to accommodate the improvements related to the fiber infrastructure project located on a mutually agreed upon pathway.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-19 approving and authorizing execution of four Easement Agreements with Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-20 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-20 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-21 to approve payment in the amount of \$173,610.00 to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-21 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on February 20, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$136,625.30, and payroll in the amount of \$156,370.62 for a total of \$292,995.92. Purchase orders to Vizcom in the amount of \$5,190.00 for project signs for the Kent Street Improvement Project, and Peerless Midwest, Inc. in the amount of \$24,317.69 to repair Well No. 6 were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the Annual Cleanup Day will be held, Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 7:00 A.M. to Noon at the DPW Complex.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW held a Walleye Dinner to benefit the David A Huhn Memorial Scholarship on March 1, 2024. The event was very well attended and raised approximately \$2,000.00.

Council Member Johnston noted the Portland High School Theatre Department will perform The Little Mermaid March 7th – 10th, 2024.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk