



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 18, 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, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Member Johnston

Guests: Merry Hass of The Port; Mike Judd; 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 Agenda.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to excuse the absence of Council Member Johnston.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Merry Hass of The Port addressed Council regarding her concerns with the Parks & Recreation Department post on Facebook offering similar activities to the ones hosted at The Port.

Mayor Barnes thanked Mrs. Hass for her time and comments. He reassured her the intent of the City is not to undermine local businesses and suggested she speak with the Parks and Recreation Department about her concerns.

City Manager Gorman expressed his understanding of her concerns and stated it is not the City's intent to harm local businesses. He further noted he will follow up with the Parks and Recreation Director to better understand what is being offered.

Mayor Barnes also noted the effort to sustain the Parks and Recreation Department and serve its residents.

There was continued discussion.

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the start of the Kent Street Improvement Project has been moved up to April 15, 2024. A few people did attend the public information workshops. The information boards will be displayed in the lobby at City Hall.

City Manager Gorman noted there has been discussion about how public events this summer will be managed throughout construction of Kent Street. Consideration is being given to potential emergency scenarios and how traffic will be handled in those potential scenarios.

City Manager Gorman presented updated renderings of the proposed plaza at 103 E. Grand River Ave. and noted he has had a conversation with Bill Fabiano, who donated the property to the City, about moving the agreed upon location of the dumpster for his business to another location.

The City has received a TMF (Technical, Managerial and Financial) Grant to help fund the mandated replacement of lead service lines by the State of Michigan. An official inventory must be completed by October 2024 and changes to service lines must be made by 2040.

The City has been diligent over the past several years to decrease its unfunded liabilities of the MERS Pension plans. Due to market fluctuations over the past year the unfunded liability has increased so the City will request a waiver from the State of Michigan.

City Manager Gorman recognized the retirement of Ted Alberta, President of Portland Products and Board Member of the Portland Board of Light and Power.

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-22 to approve the purchase of a GAP/VAX Combination Jet/Vacuum truck in the amount of \$496,207.00 for the Wastewater Department. This vital piece of equipment will be purchased with funds appropriated from the State of Michigan.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-22 approving the purchase of a GAP/VAX Combination Jet/Vacuum truck for the Wastewater Department.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council considered Resolution 24-23 to approve a proposal from West Shore Services, Inc. to perform improvements to the City's public warning system. The City has four warning sirens that are utilized in severe weather and emergency events that are activated by Ionia County Central Dispatch. Ionia County Central Dispatch is transitioning from a VHF radio system to an 800-mhz system which requires upgrades to the City's warning system. The proposed improvements will allow local control of the sirens, in addition to Ionia County Central Dispatch, and will enhance emergency response in the City.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-23 approving a proposal from West Shore Services, Inc. to perform improvements to the City's warning siren system.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council considered Resolution 24-24 to approve energy purchases through the MPPA (Michigan Public Power Agency) related to the White Tail Solar Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-24 approving energy purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency related to the White Tail Solar Project.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council considered Resolution 24-25 to approve energy purchases through the MPPA (Michigan Public Power Agency) to secure electric power and energy for its present and future needs.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-25 approving energy purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency to secure electric power and energy for its present and future needs.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council considered Resolution 24-26 to approve participation in the State bid process for winter road salt for 2024-2025.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-26 approving participation in the State bid process for winter road salt 2024-2025.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

The Council considered Resolution 24-27 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-27 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Approved

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on March 4, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$240,606.40, and payroll in the amount of \$142,212.94 for a total of \$382,819.34. Purchase orders to Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$7,608.00 to replace the Dam room fan, VC3 in the amount of \$7,755.00 to connect City Departments to fiber infrastructure, Integrity Mobile Services, LLC in the amount of \$9,350.00 to paint the guard rails on the Bridget Street Bridge, Visco in the amount of \$9,942.00 for decorative lighting bollards, and Mersino Global Pump in the amount of \$12,935.37 for emergency bypass pumping due to the ice jam/flooding were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

City Manager Gorman had no additional City Manager Comments.

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Under Council Member Comments, there was discussion of the BrewFest event scheduled to take place August 2024.

City Manager Gorman noted he appreciates the earlier comments by Mrs. Hass and would like to keep the communication open.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated the American Legion will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 21, 2024, to raise funds for the David A. Huhn Scholarship Fund.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk