



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 1, 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 Clerk Miller; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: City Manager Gorman

Guests: Tim Fuller; 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 Sheehan, to approve the proposed Agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Tim Fuller addressed Council noting his suggestions that trees not be added to the new streetscape as part of the Kent Street Reconstruction Project, that shades be added to the backside of the street lights in the downtown so the lights are not shining directly onto the buildings and residences on the second floors, and his concern that the Temporary Traffic Control Order being considered by Council tonight to only allow two-hour parking in the Scout Park lot and 24-hour parking in the lot at Maple St. and Grand River Ave. will create a hardship for the downtown residents. He suggested a permit system be put in place.

Mr. Fuller also distributed a letter from Mark Lewanski, another downtown resident, addressing his concerns with parking downtown.

Mayor Barnes referred Mr. Fuller to City Manager Gorman to discuss the issues presented.

Mayor Barnes noted the written City Manager Report provided by City Manager Gorman.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented the Downtown Report.

Under Old Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-19 (A) to approve and authorize the execution of four easement agreements with Tri-County Electric Cooperative to facilitate the installation of fiber lines and a fiber system for the benefit of the public. The improvements will be made along a mutually agreed upon construction pathway subject to the terms and conditions of an Easement of Right of Way Agreement.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-19 (A) approving and authorizing execution of four easement agreements with Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-28 to approve and authorize a Pension Waiver Application to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury to establish a deficit elimination plan based on certain criteria. The Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act requires pensions to meet a 60% funding level. Due to the financial markets, the City was recently notified that its funding level is currently 57%, which is below the minimum.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-28 approving and authorizing a Pension Waiver Application to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-29 to approve a State Disaster Fund Grant Resolution, due to the significant damage caused by severe weather on August 24, 2023. Ionia County and the State of Michigan both declared a local state of emergency, causing the City of Portland to become eligible for certain reimbursements related to the storm damage under the Emergency Management Act.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-29 approving a State Disaster Fund Grant Resolution.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-30 to approve the quote from Advanced Pavement Markings LLC's bid in the amount of \$21,564.10, for 2024 street painting.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-30 approving Advanced Pavement Markings LLC's bid for 2024 street painting.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-31 to approve a Temporary Traffic Control Order related to parking and the Kent Street Reconstruction Project set to begin April 15, 2024, which will cause the elimination of parking in the 100 and 200 blocks of Kent Street during construction. The temporary reduction in parking spaces will create a higher demand for the existing parking spaces, necessitating reasonable limits be put in place to ensure parking spaces are not being excessively occupied and to facilitate commercial activity.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-31 approving a Temporary Traffic Control Order related to parking and the Kent Street Reconstruction Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on March 18, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$88,487.67, and payroll in the amount of \$154,070.12 for a total of \$242,557.79. A purchase order for Haviland in the amount of \$11,676.35 for ferric chloride was also included.

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Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Mr. Fuller for his comments regarding the Downtown and further noted his concerns will be passed on to City Manager Gorman.

Mayor Barnes noted the Council received the 2023 Annual Report tonight.

City Clerk Miller stated the Annual Reports are available on the website.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk