



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 15, 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: 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the proposed Revised Agenda.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman addressed the recent issues with the broadcast of the local cable channel.

City Clerk Miller provided on how the system works and the current issue with converting videos from DVD to Mp4 to post on the City's website.

City Manager Gorman stated that construction on the Kent Street Reconstruction Project and the related Temporary Traffic Controls began today. The first day went smoothly, there was a meeting held first thing this morning to address signage for the project.

City Manager Gorman addressed the public comment by Tim Fuller at the April 1, 2024, City Council meeting.

Mayor Barnes noted that he had directed Mr. Fuller to address his concerns with City Manager Gorman and confirmed with City Manager Gorman that Mr. Fuller had not been in touch. Mayor Barnes further noted that Mr. Fuller had made the point that he wanted his remarks on the record as though there was a communication issue with the City Manager.

City Manager Gorman stated the Electric Department Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project will begin the testing phase in May. The bulk of the meters on the system are expected to be changed out in June. Communication regarding the project will be sent out to residents in the May Newsletter.

City Manager Gorman noted the City continues its efforts related to mitigating risks related to Cybersecurity.

The heroic actions of the City employees that assisted the residents of Edgemont Apartments during the fire on January 5, 2024, will be recognized in the next few weeks.

The 2022-2023 Annual Library Report was distributed to Council tonight. Portland District Librarian Grimminck will provide a presentation at the May 6, 2024, City Council meeting.

The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Draft Budget was distributed tonight. The City Council will hold a budget workshop to review the draft budget on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-32 to approve an agreement with HomeWorks Connect to provide fiber internet services to the City of Portland.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-32 approving an agreement with HomeWorks Connect to provide fiber services to the City of Portland.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-33 to approve the Ambulance Service Agreement with the participating jurisdictions and the annual Care Plan Membership Agreement Form which limits the out-of-pocket expenses for the uninsured portions of ambulance bills.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-33 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreements with Danby Township, Portland Township, Westphalia Township, Orange Township, Lyons Township, the Village of Westphalia, the Village of Pewamo, Sebewa Township, Sunfield Township, and the Village of Sunfield and Approving the Care Plan Membership Agreement Form.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-34 to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Portland Area Fire Authority. City staff has reviewed the proposed budget and the funding formula governing the percentage of budget funded by each entity and recommends City Council approval.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-34 approving the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Portland Area Fire Authority.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-35 to approve the Adjusted Census Boundary Map and directing the City Manager to execute the Statement of Agreement for Adjusted Census Urban Boundary Establishment and Revision.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-35 approving the Adjusted Census Boundary Map and directing the City Manager to execute the Statement of Agreement for Adjusted Census Urban Boundary Establishment and Revision.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-36 approving payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$401,460.00 for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-36 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

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 April 1, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$449,881.76, and payroll in the amount of \$143,479.87 for a total of \$593,361.63. Purchase orders to Asphalt Restoration, Inc. estimated at \$10,000.00 for crack sealing, and Visco in the amount of \$80,698.00 to replace decorative street light poles on Kent Street were also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the 3rd Grade Tours will take place as usual in May but will be held virtually as requested by the teachers.

City Manager Gorman noted he met with the new owners of Portland Products. They are excited to be a part of the Portland community.

State Representative Gina Johnston visited City Hall today.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes noted the irony of the visit today by State Representative Johnston as construction that will include the river crossing, she helped secure funds for begins today.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents to be cautious and alert with the traffic changes related to the construction project.

City Council Minutes – April 15, 2024

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Johnston

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk