



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 20, 2024

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Member Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Finance Director Tolan; Police Chief Thomas; Wastewater Superintendent Smith

Absent: Council Members Fitzsimmons and Sheehan

Guests: Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink; 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 Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the proposed Agenda.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to excuse the absence of Council Members Fitzsimmons and Sheehan.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted the real estate listing with Martin Commercial Properties, Inc. for the Cutler Rd. property has recently expired and suggested it be renewed. He further suggested the consideration of rezoning the Cutler Rd. property to residential, at least in part, to attract potential development.

City Manager Gorman commended the Portland Ambulance Department for its part in responding to the mass casualty event that occurred in the area of Wacousta when an intoxicated driver hit a group of kayakers alongside the road.

Emergency services personnel also responded to a house fire in the City of Portland over the weekend.

The Automatic Infrastructure Project for the Electric Department is well underway and going well. At this point, 20% of the electric meters have been changed out and the meter data information transfers are going well. It is expected that all electric meters will be changed out by the end of June.

City staff are working to complete an inventory of water lines in Portland to submit for the Community Technical, Managerial, Finance (TMF) Grant for lead line replacement requirements. The inventory must be submitted by October 2024.

A construction meeting related to the Kent Street Reconstruction Project will be held tomorrow morning, an update will be provided to the community after the meeting. When the school year is finished then work will begin on the demolition of the buildings at 103 E. Grand River Ave. and completion of the river crossings for the Wastewater Department.

As permitted by the Donation Agreement with Bill Fabiano for the property at 103 E. Grand River Ave. the dumpster will remain at this location. An enclosure for the dumpster will be constructed.

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

City Manager Gorman thanked Wastewater Superintendent Smith for his efforts in maintaining the plant so well throughout the construction project.

There was a discussion.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget at 7:26 P.M.

City Manager Gorman presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget.

City Manager Gorman thanked Finance Director Tolan and staff for their efforts throughout the budget process.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 P.M.

Mayor Barnes extended his appreciation to Finance Director Tolan for her expertise.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-42 to adopt the Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-42 to Adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Capital Improvement Plan.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-43 to approve a proposal from AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to provide Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) monitoring and reporting services for the Municipal Dam for 2024 in the amount of \$20,900.00. At its meeting on April 30, 2024, the Board of Light and Power recommended approval of this proposal.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-43 approving a proposal from AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to provide FERC monitoring and reporting services for the Municipal Dam.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None
Absent: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons
Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on May 6, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$151,572.22, and payroll in the amount of \$166,681.88 for a total of \$318,254.10. Purchase orders to NutriGro Environmental Solutions in the amount of \$47,864.00 for hauling and land application of biosolids, and Newkirk in the amount of \$49,569.79 for emergency cable replacement and repair were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman provided information on a new program, Hope Not Handcuffs, to aid families battling substance abuse issues.

Chief Thomas provided additional information.

There was a discussion.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents to keep their yards mowed.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the Memorial Day parade will be held Monday, May 27, 2024, and will begin at the Methodist Church and continue to the cemetery. The VFW will hold the annual chicken dinner.

The new fire truck being purchased by the Portland Area Fire Authority has been completed and will be delivered after July 1, 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck reminded residents that regularly drive over the Divine Hwy. Bridge to plan for an alternate route during the new bridge construction next year.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk