



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 7, 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 Dymczyk; City Clerk Miller; Finance Director Tolan; Police Chief Thomas; Electric Superintendent Davlin; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink; Kathy Parsons; Erin Gorman; Kathy Schrauben; Ryan Johnston; Mike Judd; Mary Kay Steffes-Schmitz

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 agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Dymczyk acknowledged the passing of former Electric Superintendent Mike Hyland and recognized his 52 years of service to the City of Portland.

City Manager Dymczyk also reported he had met with the MDOT Small Urban team about funding the next round of funding in 2025. These funds are expected to be used for improvements to Grand River Ave. from Keefer Hwy. to the west City limits.

EGLE was in the City last week doing well inspections. He noted how impressed he was with the expertise of City staff and how impressive the City departments are.

Plumbers Environmental will begin doing work for the TMF Grant – Lead Line Replacement program soon. Door hangers will be hung at properties where work will take place.

Under Presentations, Electric Superintendent Davlin presented information related to Public Power Week and the value of having municipal electric in the community.

He further recognized Mike Hyland and the value of his foresight to underground the electric lines in the City of Portland which contributes to the high reliability of service to its residents.

DDA Director ConnerWellman presented her report on downtown activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 24-82 to approve a Traffic Control Order to establish a 30-minute Commercial Loading Zone on the south side of West Bridge St. between Kent Street and the Veterans Bridge. City Manager Dymczyk noted large trucks will not be allowed to use this loading zone due to the weight limits on Veterans Bridge.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-82 approving a Traffic Control Order to establish a 30-minute Commercial Loading Zone on the south side of West Bridge Street between Kent Street and the Veterans Bridge crossing the Grand River.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-83 to approve Change Order No. 7, in the amount of \$84,247.00, to the contract with F&V Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Corey Turner of Fleis & VandenBrink explained this project will include the demolition of the building at 103 E. Grand River Ave. to allow the Grand River Crossing project to continue.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-83 approving Change Order No. 7 to the Design-Build Contract with F&V Construction for Wastewater System Improvements.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-84 to approve Pay Request No. 4, in the amount of \$104,276.09, to the State of Michigan for the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-84 approving Pay Request No. 4 to the State of Michigan for work done on the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Yeas: Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-85 to approve energy purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 24-85 approving purchases through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-86 to approve the purchase of a control panel from Theka Engineering, in the amount of \$54,269.00, for the Grant Street Substation Project for the Electric Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 24-86 approving the purchase of a control panel for the Grant Street Substation Project for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-87 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013 that requires all electric utilities to charge up to \$.99 per month on customer bills to provide heating assistance to needy individuals. The City of Portland has previously adopted electric shut-off rules that protect low-income and senior citizens from electric shutoffs from November 1 to April 15.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 24-87 to opt out of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 95 of 2013.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 24-88 to approve the proposal in the amount of \$1,646,929.00 from Newkirk Electric Associates to construct the Grant Street Substation for the Electric Department.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 24-88 approving the proposal from Newkirk Electric Associates to construct the Grant Street Substation for the Electric Department.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, 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 September 16, 2024, payment of invoices in the amount of \$169,808.96, and payroll in the amount of \$139,235.68, for a total of \$309,044.64. Purchase orders to Divine Auto Body in the amount of \$5,172.72 to remove decals and repair both interior and exterior defects to the former police car for the Electric Department, Dickinson Wright PLLC in the amount of \$6,525.00 for legal services, Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$7,500.00 for a Vapor Phase Intrusion Investigation at the Electric Department Diesel Plant, D&K Truck Co. in the amount of \$8,460.70 for repairs to the 2010 Freightliner Plow, HECO in the amount of \$14,096.00 for cleaning of Generator #2 at the Hydroelectric Dam, CL Trucking & Excavating LLC in the amount of \$15,240.00 for concrete work on the Kent Street planter curbs, and Batteries Plus in the amount of \$15,597.04 for a refund through the Franklin Energy Energy Optimization Program were included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk thanked staff for the warm welcome and noted their expertise and knowledge. He stated he his grateful to be serving the City of Portland.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes recognized the passing of Mike Hyland and noted it was always a comfort to know he was watching over the City. He was dedicated to the City of Portland serving in a variety of roles including Electric Superintendent, DPW Foreman, and Fire Chief. He further expressed his condolences to his family and friends.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck echoed the Mayor's sentiments and noted Mike's immense knowledge of the history of Portland.

Council Member Fitzsimmons also echoed the noted sentiments and stated it was always good to talk to Mike around budget time.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk