

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 15, 2013

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Calley, Fabiano and Krause; City Manager Dempsey; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Bauer

Guests: Main Street Board Member and Chair of the Promotions and Marketing Committee Nicole Sunstrum; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Nicole Sunstrum.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fabiano, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Dempsey presented information on the action items for consideration on the Agenda.

City Manager Dempsey also reported there was a water main break on Looking Glass Ave. Rocks were discovered near the lines that were used as fill at the time of their placement. Over time with vibration the rocks wore through the line. The line was repaired and reburied with sand.

There have also been sewer backups on Crescent Dr. and Grape St. recently. The one on Grape St. was in the homeowner's lines; the one on Crescent Dr. was in the City's sewer lines. The sewer lines in these areas have been cleaned. A sewer backup report will be filed with City's insurance company for the backup on Crescent Dr.

City Manager Dempsey stated there has been a very positive response to the relocation of the recycling receptacles outside of the DPW gates. Use of the recycling facilities has increased significantly. Another receptacle has been ordered to accommodate all of the materials being recycled.

Council Member Fabiano asked if City Manager Dempsey would present results of the survey conducted with the winter property tax bills.

City Manager Dempsey stated he intended to present those results at the May 6th City Council Meeting.

Council Member Fabiano also inquired about the status of Union negotiations with the AFSCME Union.

City Manager Dempsey stated negotiations are currently in a holding pattern as the group considers changing Unions.

Under Presentations, Nicole Sunstrum, Main Street Board Member and Chair of the Promotions and Marketing Committee, gave a report on Downtown activities. The 7th Annual Portland Pay Day promotion will begin June 1st and run through August 29th. During the past four years over \$247,000 has been kept in the Portland community. The grand prize drawing will be held on August 29th at the Thursdays on the Grand event.

The 2013 Block Party will be held on Saturday, May 18th and will feature a BBQ Contest as well as food, music and fun for the entire family.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 13-31 to approve a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement with Cheeky Monkeys LLC to place tables and chairs on the boardwalk in front of their establishment at 176 Kent St.

Council Member Krause expressed her appreciation to the businesses that are an active part of Portland's Downtown.

Motion by Krause, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-31 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement.

Yeas: Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Abstention: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-32 to set a Public Hearing on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for Monday, May 6th, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 13-32 setting a Public Hearing on the Budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Yeas: Fabiano, Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-33 to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council for a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, April 17th at 7:00 P.M.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-33 to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council for a Budget Workshop.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council held on April 1, 2013, payment of invoices in the amount of \$51,569.13 and payroll in the amount of \$93,879.15 for a total of \$145,448.28; there were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck extended his thoughts and prayers for those affected by the bombing at the Boston Marathon earlier in the day. He further stated a Portland resident was participating in the Marathon. It seems that this person crossed the finish line 4 minutes prior to the blast; their current status has not been verified. He hopes all is well.

Council Member Krause extended her sympathies and concern as well. She also stated that the 14th Annual Hugh Howard Challenge will be held Saturday, April 27th. This is a historical reenactment; paddle event with over 200 paddlers participating. For more information go to www.verlenkrugermemorial.org.

City Manager Dempsey stated the Spring Clean Up will be held Saturday, April 27th from 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. at the DPW yard. The Rivertrail Clean Up will also be held Saturday, April 27th beginning at the Railroad Bridge at 9:00 A.M. The Hazardous Waste Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 4th in the Fire Department parking lot.

Council Member Fabiano asked about the MML Conference.

Mayor Barnes commented that the legislators and representatives in attendance heard much “feedback” from the MML members in attending the conference. He also stated the personal property tax issue was discussed; it is very complicated. There is a moratorium in place for 1 ½ years after which time it will go to a vote.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk