

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, February 4, 2013

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Council Member Fabiano

Guests: 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.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve the Revised Agenda to excuse Council Member Fabiano who was detained with his job firefighting.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Motion by Calley, supported by VanSlambrouck, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fabiano.

Yeas: Calley, VanSlambrouck, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

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 a representative of Badger Meter conducted training with staff and the transition is being made to meter readings being made by radio readers and a hand held device for reading entry.

Ambulance Director Dave Brown has retired. Paramedic Phil Gensterblum has stepped into the Director position and has been doing a great job. He received information from a colleague on a used Stryker cot for one of the ambulances. We were able to obtain this cot through trade of excess equipment in the Ambulance Department. Phil is working to improve equipment and service.

There have been schedule changes on the MDOT Box Culvert Project. This week work has actually begun. The section of the trail currently under construction should be open within the next 2 weeks.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 13-04 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Joseph Fedewa to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Mr. Fedewa for volunteering his time to serve Portland.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-04 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-05 to amend the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget for purchase of a backhoe and ambulance.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-05 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-06 to approve the purchase of a used ambulance. The City's 1994 ambulance is in need of costly repairs to fix the passenger front sub frame which has rotted out where the cab mount is sitting. Rather than undertake a costly repair on a near obsolete vehicle the City investigated replacing the unit by purchasing either a new, demonstration unit, remount, or used ambulance. City staff has identified a used 2003 ambulance that can be purchased for \$21,000. The City's Ambulance Director and Mechanic have inspected and test driven the ambulance described and are recommending Council approving its purchase.

Motion by Krause, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-06 approving the purchase of a used ambulance.

Yeas: Krause, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Council considered Resolution 13-07 to ratify actions taken to repair the 2008 ambulance and approve a payment to La Fontaine Ford. The City's 2008 ambulance broke down and was towed back to the DPW where the City's mechanic determined the engine had seized up and would need to be replaced. Cost and time estimates were obtained from La Fontaine Ford in Lansing and Duthler Ford in Grand Rapids that were similar. The ambulance was taken to La Fontaine Ford due to its close location. The anticipated cost of the repairs was expected to exceed staff's normal purchase authority but the situation was treated as an emergency so the ambulance could be returned to service as soon as possible. Council was advised of the breakdown and needed repairs at the second meeting in January and also advised of the intent to present a resolution requesting formal ratification.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-07 ratifying actions taken to repair an ambulance and approving payment to La Fontaine Ford.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Council considered Resolution 13-08 to approve the purchase of a new backhoe loader and trading in the existing unit. The City's 1999 backhoe loader has 6500+ hours on it and needs to have the loader valve replaced as well as some other small repairs. Rather than undertake the costly repair to a near obsolete vehicle the City investigated replacing the unit by purchasing a new unit through the State MiDeal program, which provides a \$72,376.34 discount from the manufacturer's equipment group price of \$178,707.00. City Staff recommends Council approve replacing the backhoe using the MiDeal program and trading in the old unit so the net cost to the City is \$81,329.55.

Motion by Krause, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-08 approving the purchase of a new backhoe loader and trading in the existing unit.

Yeas: Krause, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Council considered Resolution 13-09 to approve Permanent Traffic Control Orders controlling parking on a portion of Lincoln Street between Oak and Hill Streets. All day on-street parking on the West side of Lincoln Street between Hill and Oak Streets has caused the City's Department of Public Works to reduce services to property owners on that block because difficulty to get access to clear snow, pick up leaves and brush, and sweep the street. Property owners were consulted about the proposed changes on Danby Street and they voiced concerns about the parking situation on Lincoln Street. The City Manager and Police Chief have reviewed parking on that block and implemented a Temporary Traffic Control Order No. 48A that ordered the placing of "No Parking 8am – 10am" signs on the West side of the street so that those property owners could receive the same City services that other property owners receive. City Manager Dempsey and Police Chief Bauer are now recommending the City Council approve proposed Traffic Control Order No. 48A as a permanent traffic control order.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-09 approving permanent traffic control orders controlling parking on a portion of Lincoln Street between Oak and Hill Streets.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Motion by Calley, supported by VanSlambrouck, to go into Closed Session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining at the end of the meeting.

Yeas: Calley, VanSlambrouck, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 21, 2013 and the City Council Goal Session held on January 23, 2013, payment of invoices in the amount of \$68,867.51 and payroll in the amount of \$137,113.84 for a total of \$205,981.35. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Barnes thanked City employees for their efforts in keeping the City streets free of snow.

Council Member VanSlambrouck commended the Ambulance Department for the good job they have been doing.

The Council went into Closed Session at 7:17 P.M.

Council Member Fabiano joined the Closed Session at 7:56 P.M.

The Council returned from Closed Session at 8:41 P.M.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk