

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 7, 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; Police Chief Bauer

Absent: Council Member Fabiano

Guests: Kathy Parsons, City Representative to the Portland Fire Authority Board; 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 Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, 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 he has received a number of complaints about the quality of the video of cable broadcasts this past week. Representatives of WOW! Advised they have been experiencing issues with the quality of the service due to an unprecedented surge in bandwidth demand. The issue began immediately after Christmas. Additional bandwidth has been put in place and they have modified their monitoring in an effort to avoid future problems. They are working diligently to correct the problem and are moving to a 24-hour, 7-day a week coverage from the call center at the end of March and hope to have the local cable access programming problem with the digital adapters fixed by the end of this week.

WOW! has invested approximately \$7,000,000 in the area in 2012 with plans to kick off a network upgrade/rebuild beginning this month; this will take approximately two years to complete but will vastly improve overall service, quality and reliability. Once the digital upgrade is complete they will be launching an additional 20 HD channels, provide Video on Demand, and expand the current Video on Demand categories.

City Manager Dempsey reported that he met with a representative from MDOT and the contractor on an updated schedule for the Bridge Removal/Box Culvert Project. They are proposing a start date of

January 14th to complete the utility work and box culvert erection. The trail will be closed and the pedestrian detour erected taking trail users off the trail at Rowe Street to Grand River Ave. to Cutler Rd. Upon completion of the box culvert erection, they will re-open the trail back up to pedestrian traffic. This should occur in mid-February. They will re-close the trail on April 8th and begin work on I-96; this work will continue until the project is completed. The trail is anticipated to be reopened by May 24th; so it should be available for the Memorial Day Weekend.

The fire damaged property at 246 Quarterline St. has had the gas disconnected and the contractor has pulled the demolition permit. The property should be razed within the next week.

The Portland Main Street program's Economic Revitalization will hold an information meeting about the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's (MSHDA) "Downtown Rental Rehabilitation" program on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall. The goal of this program is to redevelop underutilized space in the core downtown area by providing rental rehabilitation assistance to downtown building owners to upgrade and create affordable rental housing for low and moderate income residents.

Under New Business, the First Reading of the Proposed Tax Exemption Ordinance 195A was held. This Ordinance provides for a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) for a proposed elderly low income housing project for the redevelopment of what was Old School Manor at 306 Brush St. The City has been working with the Ionia County Land Bank and the WODA Group on the redevelopment of the property into affordable senior housing. WODA has created a new company for the development called Portland School Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership to rehabilitate and own and operate "Portland School Apartments". The Ordinance provides for a PILOT equal to 10% of the annual shelter rents for 16 years. Annual shelter rents are defined as the total actual collections during an agreed annual period from all occupants of the housing development representing rents or occupancy charges exclusive of charges for gas, electricity, heat, or other utilities furnished to occupants.

The Council considered Resolution 13-01 to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Nicole Sunstrum to the Planning Commission and Paul Johnson to the Board of Review.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-01 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, 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 December 17, 2012, payment of invoices in the amount of \$41,267.25 and payroll in the amount of \$282,196.10 for a total of \$323,463.35. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck sent a "get well soon" wish to DDA/Director Reagan who has been ill with walking pneumonia.

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

Yeas: Calley, VanSlambrouck, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk