



# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

**Held on Tuesday, March 3, 2025**

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; Police Chief Thomas; Police Officer McCrory; DDA Director ConnerWellman

Guests: Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink; Will Heath, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools; Tony Deerdorf, Derrick Stair, Chris Kenroy, and Sarah Dawson with Portland Public Schools; Jonathan Bair with the Portland Foundation for Public Education; Merry Hass of The Port; Mike Palm with Hot Shots; Brian Manzella; Kathy Parsons

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

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the proposed agenda as presented.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Merry Hass suggested the decision to award the project at 103 E. Grand River Ave. be delayed allowing the local bidder more time to lower their bid.

Mayor Barnes explained the formal bid process.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Dymczyk reported on recent and upcoming activities.

Under Presentations, Portland Public School Superintendent Will Heath presented information on the upcoming school wide Portrait of a Learner initiative as well as information regarding the upcoming bond proposals in both 2025 and 2027.

There was discussion.

DDA Director ConnerWellman presented the Winter Digest – Bi-Annual Public Presentation and the Downtown Report.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-11 to recognize the Portland Foundation for Public Education as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-11 to recognize the Portland Foundation for Public Education as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-12 to approve Pay Request No. 7, in the amount of \$21,843.15, for work done on the Kent Street Improvement Project.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-12 approving Pay Request No. 7 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 25-13 to approve an award, in the amount of \$236,816.00, for the Plaza Development Project at 103 E. Grand River Ave. to MWT, LLC.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information related to the bid process for the Plaza Development Project and the proposed contractor for the project.

Mr. Moxey also provided information related to the scaling that is happening on some of the new sidewalk along Kent St. This can happen to new concrete when large amounts of salt are spread on top of it as may have happened with the hard winter we have had this year. He will be talking to the contractor on the project to remedy the situation.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-13 approving an award of the Plaza Development Project at 103 East Grand River Ave. to MWT, LLC.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, 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 held on February 18, 2025, payment of invoices in the amount of \$109,539.83 and payroll in the amount of \$170,661.97, for a total of \$280,201.80. Purchase orders to Kennedy Industries in the amount of \$6,970.00 for impellers and filters for the Cutler Rd. lift station, Visco in the amount of \$7,340.00 for purchase of two decorative light poles, and Frederickson Supply in the amount of \$22,149.00 for a Wacker Neuson Ride-on Roller were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk noted that he and Chief Thomas met with a downtown business owner about parking issues. He also noted he attended the VFW meeting last week. He is enjoying meeting residents in the community.

Under Council Member Comments, Council Member Johnston stated the PHS Drama Club will perform Anastasia at Portland High School on March 6-9, 2025.

Council Member Fitzsimmons noted his appreciation for the public comments related to the bid process.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired how the Ambulance Meeting with the participating jurisdictions went last week.

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City Manager Dymczyk stated the Ambulance Meeting was very optimistic. The jurisdictions have confidence in Ambulance Director Dan Sowles. There was discussion about improving community outreach to increase awareness around the Ambulance Subscription Plan.

There was discussion.

Council Member Sheehan noted her appreciation for the recent activity from residents reaching out with questions, comments, and concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW will host a Fish Fry on Friday, March 7, 2025, from 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk