



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 17, 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

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd; JJ Hyland; Jeff Braithwaite; Deelynn Srvanenina

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Jeff Braithwaite expresses concern with the high property taxes for his new home near Cutler Rd and Looking Glass Rd, which are both dirt roads.

After discussion, it was determined his property is in Portland Township and he was provided with contact information.

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

City Manager Dymczyk noted construction on I96 that will begin next week and continue through November in both east and west bound lanes between the rest area and Bliss Rd. (Saranac).

Police Chief Thomas also noted that travel through Ionia County, specifically on Grand River Ave., will also be impacted as the exits at M66 in Ionia and Jordan Lake Rd. will be closed.

City Manager Dymczyk also noted the City will be sending letters to residents notifying them if their water service line material is unknown and may contain lead or their water service line is made of galvanized previously connected to lead materials as required by the State of Michigan rules regarding lead and copper and EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy). The City received a TMF Grant (Technical, Managerial, and Financial Grant) to help meet the requirements set by the State of Michigan and perform a physical verification of lead service lines in the city. The City tests for lead in the water supply and results are at a safe level.

There were no presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-14 to opt in to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 169 of 2024 to allow the Michigan Department of Human Services

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(DHS) to administer funds collected. The Michigan Public Service Commission will establish the surcharge on all customers. Staff has reviewed local resources and municipal partners and recommends opting in to allow DHS administration of collected funds.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-14 to opt in to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by Public Act 169 of 2024.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-15 to approve the award of plaza masonry work at 103 E. Grand River Ave. to Goodrich Masonry in the amount of \$43,000.00 for brick columns and masonry work for the dumpster enclosure.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-15 approving the award of plaza masonry work at 103 E. Grand River Ave. to Goodrich Masonry.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-16 to approve an application for Local Bridge Program funds for rehabilitation of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River. The Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River is deteriorated and in need of maintenance.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-16 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for rehabilitation of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-17 to approve participation in the State bid process, through the MiDEAL program, for winter road salt for 2025-2026. The City Manager and DPW Foreman recommend submitting a requisition for 100 tons of early delivery and 250 tons of seasonal backup.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-17 approving participation in the State bid process for winter road salt 2025-2026.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-18 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-18 to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 3, 2025, payment of invoices in the

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amount of \$105,115.83 and payroll in the amount of \$147,219.69, for a total of \$252,335.52. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk noted that he and Finance Officer Tolan are working through the budget process for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck congratulated the Hubbardston Irish Dancers on their performance over the weekend and noted the VFW will host a Fish Fry on Friday, March 21, 2025.

Mayor Barnes and Council Member Johnston both commented on how fantastic the production of Anastasia by the Portland High School Drama group was over the weekend of March 7-9, 2025.

Council Member Sheehan noted the Arts Fest at Portland High School will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk