

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 6, 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; DDA/Main Street Director Reagan; Police Chief Bauer

Guests: Candidate for Police Chief Position Fred Terpstra and his wife Ginger Terpstra; Kathy Parsons; 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 Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the revised Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, 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 that the extensive rains in April caused damage to a manhole on Market Street. The large amount of water coming down from Marshall St. caused the road to wash out beneath the manhole. Repairs have been made.

A manhole was installed on Bridge St. alongside Powers Park in an effort to prevent sewer problems that have been an issue in that area. The new manhole will allow for easier cleanout and better maintenance of the area.

City Manager Dempsey extended his appreciation to crews at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the extra hours and time they put in over 2 to 3 days in managing sludge due to a sensor error.

Panel interviews will be held tomorrow at City Hall for the Police Chief position being vacated by retiring Police Chief Bob Bauer.

The Community Cleanup was held Saturday, April 27th at the Department of Public Works. The number of loads was down a bit from last year at 484. There were 28 dumpsters filled for disposal and 34 pallets of electronics collected for recycling.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan presented a report on Downtown Portland. The Design Committee continues to oversee the Scout Park Fence Project. The columns have been installed; fencing should follow shortly.

The Portland Pay Day promotion will be held June 1st through August 23rd. Over the past four years, this promotion has kept over \$247,000 in the Portland community.

The 2013 Block Party will be held Saturday, May 18th in Downtown Portland and will include a petting zoo, a party pavilion, inflatables for kids, a BBQ competition, crafters, a talent show, a burger eating contest, and live music.

City Manager Dempsey presented the 2011-2012 Community Attitude Survey results; the survey was distributed with the 2012 Winter Tax Bills.

Mayor Barnes opened the Public Hearing at 7:42 P.M.

City Manager Dempsey presented the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The Public Hearing Notice was published as required. This budget is very similar to previous years' budgets due to budget constraints. There has been no increase in the tax rate or utility rates. There are some capital projects included but there is no expansion of services. Changes have been made to employee health care benefits; this will allow the City Council to make decisions on paying down legacy costs. With the creation of the Portland Fire Authority there is no Fire Department Budget. Payments to the Fire Authority are included in Community Promotions. The City Hall Budget includes some maintenance issues.

The bond debt for repairs to Grape and Detroit Streets were paid off with Income Tax Funds in the current budget. FY 2013-2014 Income Tax Funds will be transferred to Local Streets for necessary repairs to Storz Ave. and Knox Ave. Due to the Water Department's healthy fund balance it will cover costs of its repairs to Storz Ave. and Knox Ave.

The Ambulance Fund is doing better than it has in previous years; due in large part to collections being contracted out.

The DDA is looking at having to do some balancing as principal payments on City Hall debt continue to rise.

The Electric Department will be making large capital purchases; mainly for purchased power.

The proposed budget will appropriate funds from fund balances. These appropriations do not put the funds into a negative position. Future projections in the budget allow for adjustments to be made to avoid funds falling into a negative position.

No public comment was received on the proposed budget.

Mayor Barnes extended his appreciation for the time and effort invested in developing the proposed budget.

Mayor Barnes closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 13-34 to adopt the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 13-34 to adopt the City of Portland's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that Major Street funds in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 dip in funding after 2014-2015 and asked if this is due to projected work on Cutler Road.

City Manager Dempsey stated that Fiscal Year 2014-2015 is the first year the City should receive Federal funding for the Cutler Road improvements.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the tax mills levied has not changed in quite some time. He asked City Manager Dempsey how long it had remained at the same level.

City Manager Dempsey was not sure when the levy had been set; it had not been changed in the 10 years he has been with the City of Portland.

Mayor Barnes noted it had not been changed since 1999 when he was elected to the City Council.

The roll call vote was held for the motion on the floor.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-35 to approve a uniform rental agreement renewal with Cintas. The City currently contracts with Cintas for uniform rental, some cleaning supplies, and floor mats. The contract is due to expire on May 31st, 2013. The City solicited proposals from uniform rental companies in the area and received two responses; one for Cintas and one from Gallagher. Based on the quality of service and uniforms provided, City Manager Dempsey recommended the Council approve staying with Cintas and entering a new 36-month agreement at the new reduced rates; saving \$5,907.12 per year over the existing Contract rate.

Mayor Barnes inquired what departments are covered by this contract.

City Manager Dempsey stated the Department of Public Works, the Electric Department and the Wastewater Department all receive uniforms; and rugs in the City Buildings are cleaned every other week.

Motion by Krause, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 13-35 approving a Uniform Rental Agreement Renewal with Cintas.

Yeas: Krause, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council meeting held on April 15, 2013 and the City Council Budget Workshop held on April 17, 2013, payment of invoices in the amount of \$88,901.82 and payroll in the amount of \$88,232.14 for a total of \$177,133.96; and a purchase order to Kendall Electric in the amount of \$7,349.25 for conduit.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member Krause thanked City employees for their outstanding efforts at the Community Clean Up.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck asked if anything could be done with the traffic lights along Grand River Ave. to ease up the strain placed on travel on Grand River Ave. at traffic controls placed near I-96 due to the Box Culvert Project on the River Trail.

City Manager Dempsey stated that load limits were lifted late in the season (April 15th). Due to the load limits and large amounts of rain received in April the Box Culvert Project is 2 weeks behind schedule. When crews were finally able to get on the project, sand had to be replaced as testing showed improper drainage. It now looks as if it will be the end of June before the traffic controls are able to be removed; although the box culvert will be open over Memorial Weekend for River Trail traffic. The traffic squeeze caused by the traffic controls is because of the pedestrian detour for River Trail traffic along Grand River Ave. Traffic light changes are not a cost effective option; and are not included in the budget. Typically traffic light changes are done as a result of a traffic study. This would require an upgrade to the signals. The City may be able to make some minor adjustments.

Council Member Fabiano asked if the bypass (detour) was required by MDOT.

City Manager Dempsey stated it was not; the detour was approved by City Council as part of the project approval for MDOT in order to keep the River Trail open.

Mayor Barnes stated he had been asked by a resident if the light at Grand River Ave. and West St. could be changed from a red/yellow/green except during the school year.

Mayor Barnes further commented that another resident in the area had explained there is rarely a time of year when the fields in that area aren't being used and therefore the light should not be changed.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk