

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 20, 2013

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Member Fabiano; City Manager Dempsey; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Bauer

Absent: Council Members Fabiano and Krause

Council Member Fabiano arrived at 7:02 P.M.

Guests: 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fabiano who is working at the scene of a house fire and Council Member Krause who is ill.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano, Krause

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve the revised Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano, Krause

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Dempsey presented information on the action items for consideration on the Agenda.

City Manager Dempsey explained the memo outlining the Parks and Recreation Board's recommendation to permit the consumption of alcohol in City parks. City Manager stated he is looking for direction from the Council on this issue and how they would like him to proceed.

City Manager Dempsey stated that 3 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes from Westwood Elementary School visited City Hall today; the other 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes will visit tomorrow.

Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> the City of Portland will visit the City of Hastings for Mayor Exchange. The City of Hastings will visit Portland on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The National Bridge Inspection Standards are changing and will now include load ratings. The Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. Bridges both fall under this new requirement. The timing required to meet these new standards will fall into the existing inspection schedule.

MDOT continues to make progress on the Box Culvert Project; they have run into a problem with the 15” tall letters to read “Portland River Trail” on the head wall of the box culvert. The 15” letters will not fit well as planned and are recommending the letters be made smaller. They are looking to the City for input on what size letters to use. There will be no additional cost for this change. The Council recommended deferring the decision to MDOT as they are able to see what size will work best.

City Manager Dempsey commented the interview process for the replacement of Police Chief Bauer has been completed. There was very good input from the distinguished interview panel for candidates interviewed. Jim Knobelsdorf was offered the position of Police Chief and has passed the background checks and all other requirements have been completed. Mr. Knobelsdorf has a similar background as Chief Bauer. He retired from the City of Roseville as their Deputy Chief and is now looking to serve in a smaller community.

Mayor Barnes extended his appreciation at being involved in this important; lengthy process of interviewing and hiring a new Police Chief. He stated his pleasure with the result.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 13-36 to approve a rate increase for residential trash pickup with Granger Container Service that allows the contract to be increased based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) capped at 3% for the service years February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2014. Granger has requested a CPI adjustment for the coming year at 1.1% based on the new release from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The proposed rate increase would increase cart fees by \$.07 and \$.02 for bag tags.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 13-36 approving a contractual rate increase for residential trash pickup.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Krasue

Adopted

The Council discussed the Park and Recreation Board’s recommendation to permit the consumption of alcohol in City parks.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated the Park and Recreation Board is always looking for ways to generate income and interest in their programs. Many adult softball teams are choosing to play in leagues in other communities as the consumption of alcohol is permitted in other communities’ parks. Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck further stated this is an issue the City should discuss.

City Manager Dempsey stated the intent of this discussion is only to determine if this is a change the Council is willing to consider. In moving forward; public comment will be heard on the issue.

Council Member Fabiano stated he is in favor of allowing alcohol consumption in the parks; but is opposed to charging a fee to do so.

Council Member Calley stated if the Park and Recreation Director states that revenue is being lost by not allowing the consumption of alcohol; he would be in favor of the change. From the documentation provided it doesn't appear other communities have a problem with the consumption of alcohol getting out of control.

City Manager Dempsey stated part of the issue is the loss of revenue from softball teams going to other communities; but is also making "legal" what is already occurring at the ball fields and the park pavilions that are rented for events. He clarified that this recommendation does not include a permit process.

Chief Bauer stated that there is no objection from the Police Department in allowing the consumption of alcohol in the parks; some of this behavior is already occurring as mentioned. He further stated that a permit process would be almost impossible to police. The vast majority of individuals are responsible; he would not expect problems. Chief Bauer recommended that glass be prohibited and stated that allowing alcohol at youth activities may not be appropriate.

City Manager Dempsey stated the exact wording of the regulation needs to be developed. He clarified that the City would be allowing the consumption of alcohol; not the sale of it.

Mayor Barnes stated he had discussed this issue with a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. This Board Member told him their intent was not to allow alcohol on the playing field or the benches at the adult softball games and they want to move forward cautiously with the issue.

Mayor Barnes stated he thought it would be appropriate for the Parks and Recreation Board to craft the language as they see fit and bring it back to the City Council.

City Manager Dempsey clarified the wishes of the Council that alcohol would not be allowed on the playing field or benches and asked for clarification on allowing alcohol at the youth parks.

Mayor Barnes stated it may be appropriate to note on the forms and applications for youth activities that alcohol is not permitted; restricting the consumption of alcohol this way would still permit it when the ball fields are being used for a picnic, etc.

Mayor Barnes also added that glass should be prohibited.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council meeting held on May 6, 2013, payment of invoices in the amount of \$77,798.90 and payroll in the amount of \$124,201.64 for a total of \$202,000.54; there were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Krause

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted that at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting the VFW presented flags to the School Board so that every classroom and the front of each school would have a flag as required by a new law. The VFW raised the funds required to purchase the flags. It was a great opportunity to see the community come together.

Council Member Fabiano commented there was a big crowd Downtown on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for the Block Party.

Mayor Barnes stated there were 10 contestants for the Rib Burn Contest.

City Manager Dempsey commented the weather was great for the Block Party and it was a very family friendly event. The talent contest displayed a great level of talent in the City of Portland.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck extended congratulations to the Main Street Promotions and Marketing Committee and the volunteers for a successful event.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Krause

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk