

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 21, 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; Police Chief Knobelsdorf

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 Krause, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, 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 presented information on funding for the City's Recreation Department. For the past several years the Recreation Fund has struggled to cover costs of operating. Last year the City transferred \$15,000 from its General Fund to the Recreation Fund to help underwrite the costs of recreation in the Community. Portland Township also provided \$8,000 of assistance so their residents could participate in programs at the same rates as charged to City Residents.

In an attempt to cope with decreasing cash balances and revenues the Recreation Department has increased program fees and sought sponsorships for signs and events. The City also increased its budgeted subsidy from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. This month the City completed the transfer of its subsidy. Based on an analysis of the Recreation Fund's revenues and expenses it appears that it will not have sufficient funds to continue operations through the current Fiscal Year.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he and the Recreation Department continue to explore options to support continued recreation programming in the community.

City Manager Dempsey reported that repairs have been completed on the Cooper-Bessemer engine at the Electric Department; everything is running well. The testing on the catalytic convertor should be done by the end of the month.

GRP Engineering has completed the field work and base maps for the mapping of the City's electrical system. The mapping should be completed by the end of the year.

The City will hold an Open House on Wednesday, October 30th from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall for residents that will be affected by the Knox, Barley and Storz Street Improvement Project. Information will be gathered by the engineers. Plans for the project will be presented to the City Council in November for approval for bid letting to follow this winter.

The Portland Community Arts Council will hold an Art Show on the 2nd Floor of City Hall as part of Holidayfest on November 22nd and 23rd.

The Portland Area Historical Society will host a Cemetery Walk on Sunday, October 27th at 2:00 P.M.

Oakwood Elementary students will participate in a Halloween Sidewalk Parade through the Downtown on Halloween, October 31st at 1:30 P.M.

Trick-or-Treating will be held on Halloween, October 31st from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

City Manager Dempsey recognized the efforts of the Department of Public Works in keeping leaves in the City picked up regardless of the weather. Their efforts not only keep Portland looking tidy but also keep the catch basins clean in order to prevent flooding during rain events.

The Portland City Council Election will be held Tuesday, November 5th from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

Under New Business, the Council held the second reading of and considered Ordinance 180A to grant to Consumers Energy the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the City of Portland for a period of 10 years. City Manager Dempsey was able to successfully negotiate terms with representatives of Consumers Energy to keep language in the ordinance that would require them to replace lines older than 1960 and that would require them to work towards moving lines from under City streets.

The Ordinance was introduced for a First Reading at the September 16th meeting of the City Council as required by the City Charter. A copy of the Ordinance was placed on file and available for public inspection with the City Clerk for more than four weeks after publication of a Notice of Availability appeared in the Portland R&O.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve Ordinance 180A granting to Consumers Energy Company, its Successors and Assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the City of Portland, Ionia County, Michigan for a period of ten years.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-83 to approve holding a circus with the Chamber of Commerce as a joint fundraiser for the Chamber and the Recreation Department. In 2012 the Circus held for

Riverfest brought in approximately \$2,115 in sponsorships and ticket sales. It is hoped that a partnership between the Chamber and the Recreation Department would result in more ticket sales and higher revenues to split between the organizations. City Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Motion by Krause, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 13-83 approving a proposal to hold a circus in Bogue Flats on Saturday, June 28th as a joint fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce and the City Recreation program.

Yeas: Krause, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 13-84 to amend the City's budget to increase the transfer from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund from \$20,000 to \$30,000. It is estimated this transfer will cover the shortfall in projected revenues until March of 2014 when Portland Township has traditionally provided their financial support.

Council Member Krause inquired if Danby Township contributed to the Recreation Fund.

City Manager Dempsey stated Danby Township has been approached about contributing to the Recreation Fund but has chosen not to because of their geographic location. Their jurisdiction covers multiple school districts and they do not donate to any others. As a result, Danby Township residents pay higher participation fees for recreation activities.

Motion by Krause, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 13-84 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Yeas: Krause, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

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 October 7, 2013, payment of invoices in the amount of \$101,631.32 and payroll in the amount of \$127,477.07 for a total of \$229,108.39. A purchase order to Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in the amount of \$7,667.00 for 2014 Safety Dues was also included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comment, Council Member Krause congratulated the PHS Varsity Boys Tennis team for finishing 7th in the State of Michigan and 1st in the public school teams.

Council Member Krause also commented that the Portland Area Service Group will host a Medicare Seminar on Wednesday, October 23rd.

Mayor Barnes stated he had a resident express their appreciation for the service of the Water Department. They had to have their water disconnected; the city employee gave his cell phone number to coordinate a quick shut off of the water so the resident wouldn't have to pay a plumber to wait.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk