



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, June 16, 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

Guests: Lisa Balderson of Portland Express; Merry Hass of The Port; Kathy Parsons; Mike Judd

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Merry Hass of The Port, expressed her concern about communications regarding the key fob issue that has occurred in the Downtown.

City Manager Dymczyk shared information on the car/vehicle key fob concern downtown. The City has not conducted a formal study of the issue but did reach out to the City's Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) vendor, who has professional experience in radio frequencies, to assist the City's efforts. The information provided and collected did not provide any conclusive results.

There was discussion.

Lisa Balderson of Portland Express presented concerns with pedestrian traffic and other related issues along E. Grand River Ave. between Bridge St. and I-96.

City Manager Dymczyk stated that a traffic study has been done as part of the potential Rindlehaven development that explores the challenges in the area of Rowe Ave. and E. Grand River Ave.

There was discussion.

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

There were no Presentations.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-38 to approve an agreement between the City of Portland and the employees represented by the Chapter of the Governmental Employees Labor Council (GELC).

City Manager Dymczyk provided information on the proposed Tentative Agreement with GELC and expressed his appreciation for the process, the union stewards, and the spirit of the negotiations. He also thanked Finance Officer Tolan for her efforts in the process.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-38 approving the agreement between the City of Portland and the City Employees represented by the Chapter of the Governmental Employees Labor Council (GELC).

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-39 to approve the agreement between the City of Portland and employees represented by the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC).

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-39 approving the agreement between the City of Portland and the City Employees represented by the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC).

Yeas: Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-40 to approve a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for each of the next three years for non-union City employees.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-40 approving a cost-of-living adjustment for non-union City employees.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-41 approving payment in the amount of \$936,595.00 to F&V Construction for work performed for the River Crossing Project as part of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Mayor Barnes noted the funds for this project are from the \$3 million appropriated from the State of Michigan.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-41 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed in relation to the River Crossing Project as part of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-42 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-42 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

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Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Finance Officer Tolan for her efforts in overseeing the Budget.

The Council considered Resolution 25-43 to appoint Robert Baldyga to the Board of Light and Power and Jason Williamson to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-43 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 2, 2025, payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,396,148.44 and payroll in the amount of \$224,948.62 for a total of \$1,621,097.06. A purchase order to Trojan Technologies in the amount of \$5,084.47 for a board kit for UV repairs for the lift station was included.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

City Manager Dymczyk noted the City is currently working with State Representative Gina Johnsen for further appropriations from the State of Michigan in the amount of \$9.2 million that were not granted through the previous appropriations. The City is very grateful for her efforts.

Under Council Member Comments, Council Member Fitzsimmons inquired where the enhancements to E. Grand River Ave. fall on the PASER study. City Manager Dymczyk noted he will have to verify the ranking of these repairs.

There was discussion.

Mayor Barnes acknowledged the recent shootings that occurred in Minnesota where a legislator and her spouse were killed, and another legislator and his spouse were wounded. He extended thoughts and prayers to the families of those affected by the tragedy.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk