



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, July 7, 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; DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Officer McCrory

Guests: Merry Hass of The Port; Kathy Parsons; Shannon Cunningham

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

Mayor Barnes wished everyone a Happy New Year as July 1st marked the beginning of the new Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Dymczyk reported on recent and upcoming activities. The river crossings as part of the wastewater portion of the Looking Glass Plaza Project have been completed. The next step will be to tie in the new infrastructure at the manhole located at Kent St. and Grand River Ave. This work is expected to be completed mid-July and then the intersection will be open. The plaza is expected to be finished in August.

At a staff meeting on June 27, 2025, the new safety vendor Alpha Omega was introduced. In a continued effort to improve safety there will be a focus on consistent safety practices across all City departments.

The required mussel survey for Divine Highway Bridge Project will begin this week. Construction of the new bridge is expected to take place during the 2026 construction season.

There was discussion.

City Manager Dymczyk noted the Tentative Agreements have been integrated into both the GELC and POLC Union Contracts. Once the contracts have been executed they will be distributed to Council as part of the Communications.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman presented the report on Downtown activities.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-44 to approve Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$9,950.50 to Plummer's Environmental for work on the TMF Water Service Material Verification Project.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-44 approving Pay Request No. 2 to Plummer's Environmental for work done on the TMF Water Service Material Verification Project.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-45 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Becky Ward to the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-45 confirming the Mayor's appointment to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 16, 2025, payment of invoices in the amount of \$105,239.59 and payroll in the amount of \$342,068.38 for a total of \$447,307.97. Purchase orders to Cook Brothers Excavating in the amount of \$6,000.00 for sewer repairs at Detroit St. and Quarterline St., Moyer Construction in the amount of \$6,319.00 for replacement of various portions of sidewalk, Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$6,800.00 for fire hydrant sand blasting and painting, Resco in the amount of \$7,356.00 for distribution cabinets for the Grant Street Substation Project, DigiCom Global Inc. in the amount of \$8,995.63 for mobile radios and encryption process for the Police Department, Verdantas in the amount of \$11,500.00 to establish hot-line-tag relay settings and associated testing, Newkirk in the amount of \$12,988.00 for the redesigned oil containment vault, Farabee Mechanical in the amount of \$14,261.28 for parts to repair the Nordberg Diesel Engine Generator, and Verdantas in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the interconnection design between six circuits for the Grant Street Substation Project were also included.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk stated he is looking forward to the new Fiscal Year.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Barnes stated he has happy to see the City's continuous effort in making safety a priority, especially considering the recent tragedy where a local young man was killed on a job site in Potterville.

Mayor Barnes noted the 4th of July parade was a great event.

There was discussion of the parade route in the future.

Council Member Sheehan stated the Portland Civic Players will hold the Summer Theatre productions this upcoming weekend.

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

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Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk