



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 4, 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; Police Officer Helms

Guests: Kathy Parsons

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 and revise the agenda to exclude Item B under New Business.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Mayor Barnes noted DDA Director ConnerWellman was unable to attend the meeting due to health issues so won't be presenting the Downtown Report. He noted the Brews & Pours event will be held Saturday, August 9, 2025.

There was no Public Comment

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Dymczyk reported the intersection at Kent St. and Grand River Ave is now open. Crews will be on site Thursday, August 7, to complete the sewer and manhole lining, which is the last portion of the Wastewater System Improvements Project to significantly impact traffic. Work on the plaza at 103 E. Grand River Ave. will begin once this project is complete.

City Manager Dymczyk also provided information on zoning/code efforts, networking opportunities, and upcoming safety meetings.

Under New Business, the Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 101N to establish a procedure for applying for new utility service and applying certain rates and charges as appropriate to apportion the relative costs of the extension of service.

The Council considered Resolution 25-49 to approve the purchase of six Kenwood 800 MHz radios, in the amount of \$24,770.74, for the Ambulance Department. The current radios are approximately 34 years old and need replacement.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-49 approving the purchase of six Kenwood 800 MHz radios for the Ambulance Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

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Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-50 to approve the purchase of Kerite underground conductor cable from Resco, for the estimated cost of \$137,760.00, for the Grant Street Substation Project. Kerite conductor cable is recommended due to its proven performance, product longevity, and system reliability.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-50 approving the purchase of Kerite underground conductor cable from Resco for the Grant Street Substation Project.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-51 to approve HydroCorp's proposal, in the amount of \$14,366.50, to provide a Cross-Connection Control Program.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-51 approving HydroCorp's proposal to provide a Cross-Connection Control Program.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-52 to appoint Tammy Meyers as City's Officer Delegate for the MERS Conference, October 16-17, 2025, at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 25-52 appointing an Officer Delegate to represent the City at the 2025 MERS Conference.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, 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 July 21, 2025, payment of invoices in the amount of \$229,335.52 and payroll in the amount of \$184,669.96 for a total of \$414,005.48. Purchase orders to MAAG Transport in the amount of \$5,000.00 for brush clearing, Timber Tree Services in the amount of \$5,600.00 for tree removal and tree trimming, BS&A Software in the amount of \$6,225.00 for Annual Software Services, Timber Tree Services in the amount of \$6,225.00 for tree removal and tree trimming, West Michigan Powder Coating in the amount of \$15,000.00 for cemetery fence restoration, and Clery Fence in the amount of \$28,657.00 to replace a ballfield fence at Bogue Flats were also included.

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

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk noted the memo included in the Communications from Electric Superintendent Davlin, dated June 19, 2025, related to the antenna that was a point of discussion at the DDA Board Meeting as it was related to key fobs. The antenna was not attached to anything; therefore, it could not contribute to the key fobs not working.

Mayor Barnes noted the memo was address to City Manager Dymczyk and Merry Hass, who with her husband, own the property at 147 Kent St. where the antenna is located. Mayor Barnes noted there were misstatements made that indicated the antenna was associated with the key fob issue and that the Hasses refused to take it down. He clarified those to be incorrect and thanked the Hasses for their patience.

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Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted how nice it is to have the intersection at Kent St. and Grand River Ave. open again.

Council Member Sheehan noted she is happy to see the cemetery fence being restored. She further reminded residents that school will be starting soon and to keep an eye for children walking to and from school.

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

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk