



City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 6, 2025

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Dymczyk; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Thomas

Absent: Council Member Fitzsimmons

Guests: Cena Schneider; Kathy Parsons; Noreen Logel; Phil Quinn; Gale Rogers; Cory O'Connell

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.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fitzsimmons.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Phil Quinn and Gale Rogers, residents on Looking Glass Ave., addressed the Council regarding speeding issues on Looking Glass Ave., drivers failing to stop at the Bishop St. intersection, and why Bishop St. remains unpaved. They asked questions about the upcoming Divine Highway Bridge Project, city income tax allocation, the scheduled power outage, and utility bill increases.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Dymczyk reported on the scheduled power outage on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 11:00 P.M. through Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 8:00 A.M. so that Consumers Energy can connect power lines from the existing system to the poles that will serve the new substation. The Grand Opening for the Looking Glass Plaza Project will be held Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. New audio and video equipment was installed last week in the Council Chambers. He and City Clerk Miller are evaluating the new capabilities and will make recommendations to Council. He acknowledged the issue around the scaffolding that was located at 170 Kent St. and noted he is working toward modifying procedures to avoid elongated timelines for façade repairs in the future.

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

Under Old Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-48 to authorize a Recreation Services Agreement with Eagle Township to offer services, programming, and facility access to non-resident participants under clearly defined terms.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-48 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Recreation Services Agreement with Eagle Township.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 25-64 to authorize an agreement for professional assessing services with Michael Dougherty. City Manager Dymczyk explained that Kara Dougherty had taken a job with the State of Michigan, necessitating a new assessor of record. Michael Dougherty, who has assisted Kara previously, is familiar with Portland's parcels and processes. He holds a Class 3 license, which is more than qualified for the city's needs. The contract changes include a shift to appointment-only availability for residents, reflecting the limited workforce in the assessing market. The City Manager noted they will monitor this arrangement to ensure citizens receive appropriate service.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-64 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign an agreement for professional assessing services with Michael Dougherty.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-65 to approve the installation and operation of Wi-Fi internet service at the Red Mill Pavilion, which has become an essential amenity for facility rentals, enabling event organizers, participants, and attendees to conduct business, process transactions, and promote activities.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-65 approving the installation and operation of Wi-Fi internet service at the Red Mill Pavilion to support rentals and the Farmers Market.

Yeas: Sheehan, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-66 to approve the Energy Waste Recovery (EWR) Plan and Participation Agreement with the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA). In November 2023, the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 229, requiring electric providers to implement additional EWR programs beginning in 2026. The MPPA competitively bid multiple vendors and selected Franklin Energy to administer a state-compliant EWR program as the most comprehensive and cost-effective solution.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-66 approving the Energy Waste Recovery (EWR) Plan and Participation Agreement with the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fitzsimmons

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 25-67 to approve a proposal from Cook Brothers Excavating, in the amount of \$82,746.00, to install conduit from the Grant Street Substation to the main distribution vault located at the Electric Department.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve Resolution 25-67 approving a proposal from Cook Brothers Excavating to perform work for the Grant Street Substation Project.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-68 to approve a proposal from Kendall Electric, in the amount of \$27,091.64, for the purchase of conduit materials to construct the underground distribution system interconnect from the Grant Street Substation to the main electric vault at the Electric Department.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-68 approving a proposal from Kendall Electric to purchase conduit materials for the Grant Street Substation Project.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-69 to approve a proposal from Resco, in the amount of \$24,719.50, to purchase electrical distribution connection parts to be used in constructing the underground electrical interconnect from the Grant Street Substation to the main circuit vault located at the Electric Department.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-69 approving a proposal from Resco to purchase electrical distribution voltage connection parts for the Grant Street Substation Project.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-70 to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a License Agreement for the Friends of the Red Mill to hold a haunted house at the Red Mill to raise funds for the Red Mill Pavilion Project.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-70 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a License Agreement to permit holding a haunted house at the Red Mill.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-71 to approve a payment to F&V Construction, in the amount of \$349,168.36, for work related to the River Crossing and Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects.

Motion by Sheehan, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 25-71 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed in relation to the River Crossing and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects.

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

The Council considered Resolution 25-72 to approve Change Order No. 1, at a cost of \$71,651.21, and Pay Request No. 1, in the amount of \$75,598.84, to MWT, LLC for work completed through October 3, 2025, for the 103 East Grand River Avenue Plaza Improvements.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 25-72 approving Change Order No. 1 and Pay Application No. 1 with MWT, LLC for 103 East Grand River Avenue Plaza Improvements.

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

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Sheehan, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City held on September 15, 2025, payment of invoices in the amount of \$196,002.57 and payroll in the amount of \$152,070.89 for a total of \$348,073.46. Purchase orders to Alpha Omega in the amount of \$5,083.00 for quarterly safety training, Integrity Mobile Services in the amount of \$6,800.00 for cemetery fence restoration, and Dorsey College in the amount of \$8,028.25 for paramedic tuition were also included.

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

Mayor Barnes noted the application from Cory O'Connell for appointment to the Downtown Development Authority included in the Communications and stated it would be presented to Council for their approval at the October 20, 2025, Council meeting.

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Dymczyk had no additional comments.

Under Council Member Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck noted the VFW will host a burger night on Friday, October 10, 2025.

Mayor Barnes commented on the September 28, 2025, mass shooting in Grand Blanc at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He noted the individual was neutralized less than four minutes after police were called, but not before two people were shot and killed, with two additional deaths from a fire apparently started by the shooter.

Kathy Parsons announced a fundraiser for the Portland Area Firefighters Association on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the Wagon Wheel, with 20% of sales going to the Association when customers present a coupon found on the Portland Area Fire Authority website. The fundraiser is in place of the usual spaghetti dinner as the department is saving resources for next year's 150th anniversary celebration.

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

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

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk