

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 3, 2012

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Calley, and Krause; City Manager Dempsey; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Bauer

Absent: Council Member Fabiano

Guests: Bill Tucker of Abraham & Gaffney; Bob & Sue VanLente, Randy Hodge, Dan Lawless and Mike Theis of Portland St. Patrick's; 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 led by Bill Tucker.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to excuse the absence of Council Member Fabiano.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Dempsey presented information on the action items for consideration on the Agenda.

City Manager Dempsey also reported the City has been working with Craig Patterson of the Woda Group on a proposal for Old School Manor. The proposed re-use being discussed is for senior housing. It would likely involve MSHDA financing and an Ordinance calling for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

City Manager Dempsey commented on Energy Optimization incentives included in the Accounts Payables in the Consent Agenda. Payments were made to Vollman Ford, Portland Products, Health Source, Endless Etching, Central Michigan Plumbing and Pooches Parlor.

City Manager Dempsey also reported the problem of false alerts on the warning sirens was thought to have been fixed but when tested this past weekend at Ionia County Central Dispatch the system malfunctioned and subsequently failed the testing. Chrouch Communications has been in Portland today checking on the problem. They are working with Ionia County Central Dispatch to repair the issue. The sirens will be tested again when they are believed to be repaired.

Under Presentations, Bill Tucker of Abraham & Gaffney presented the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Financial Audit for the City of Portland. The City received an unqualified, clean opinion which is the best that can be received. The City improved the fund balance of the General Fund to over 25% which is now at a recommended level.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commended City Manager Dempsey for his efforts in increasing the fund balance of the General Fund.

Under New Business the Second Reading of Ordinance 194B to amend Section 28-6 of the Code of Ordinances to provide regulations for Community Event Signs and to permit Temporary Banner Signs was held. The Planning Commission met on November 14th and held a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance. This ordinance would allow a community event sign of up to 24 square feet to be placed up to 14 days in advance of an event and required it be removed within 3 days after the event. Community event signs are exempt from the permit requirement. This Ordinance would allow Temporary Banner Signs of up to 24 square feet in all non-residential districts for up to 30 days per calendar year with a permit. The time limitation may be used for one sign or split among different Temporary Banner Signs throughout the year. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of Ordinance 194B to the Council.

Mayor Barnes thanked Tom Thelen for his article in the Review & Observer and bringing the issue to the attention of concerned citizens; specifically members of St. Patrick's attending tonight's meeting. He further stated the intent of the Planning Commission was to allow signs not previously allowed. He further stated his understanding that the questions by St. Patrick's were answered prior to the meeting.

City Manager Dempsey stated that Ordinances are crafter to address most cases; the variance process is available for unusual circumstances.

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Ordinance 194B to amend Section 28-6 of the City Code of Ordinances to provide regulations for Community Event Signs and to permit Temporary Banner Signs.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-103 to approve the 2013 City Council meeting dates.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 12-103 approving 2013 City Council meeting dates.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Fabiano

Adopted

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on November 19, 2012, payment of invoices in the amount of \$81,032.26 and payroll in the amount of \$151,638.59 for a total of \$232,670.85. Purchase orders to Pleune for \$5,171.75 to replace a compressor unit at City Hall and to Resco for \$25,987.50 for wire were included.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None
Absent: Fabiano
Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented the City of Portland and the Portland Main Street were currently hosting the Michigan Main Street Quarterly Training addressing economic restructuring. Over 50 participants are currently visiting Portland and using it as a model and discussion point for their individual communities.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also commented the Portland Party Store had a very successful re-opening today and that The Brick House Grille on Kent Street is planning to open on December 10th.

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes
Nays: None
Absent: Fabiano
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk