

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 5, 2012

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Guests: Representative Mike Callton; 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 Representative Callton.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

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

City Manager Dempsey presented information and dates on the Board of Review process for appealing or questions on 2012 Property Tax Assessments.

City Manager Dempsey informed the Council and residents that on Monday, February 27th at approximately 6:00 A.M. there was a significant water main break in a 10" main in the 100 Block of Water St. City crews were able to valve it off to isolate the broken main so it could be repaired without shutting off service to any residents. Due to the unusual size of the water main crews had to wait until the following day to repair the cracked main when the parts were received. An extra piece of this size main is now being stocked for possible future use. The water main break caused about 340,000 gallons of water to be lost. This shook up the water distribution system and caused many residents to experience a loss of water pressure at about 6:30 A.M. and discolored water for several hours after that. Water samples from the area around the break were tested and came back non-detect for coliform bacteria.

In the afternoon of Monday, February 27th the City's computer system that hosts the SCADA program that monitors the water towers crashed. The computer and the water main break were both repaired on Tuesday.

City Manager Dempsey reported that last week Davis Construction encountered an unforeseen condition on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project with the return sludge piping. The diameter of the existing sludge piping was obstructed by 60% and should be replaced. City Manager Dempsey approved the replacement of the piping to keep the mechanical contractor on site and working as he was told the cost to replace would be higher if the contractor had to pull off the job and come back. The piping was taken apart and inspected. It was determined by the Engineers and plant staff that the valves in this line need to be replaced and rebuilt parts are no longer available. They are now asking

for authority to replace the valves at a cost not to exceed \$4,998. The pipe replacement was quoted at a cost not to exceed \$4,982.25. Both of these changes will be included in the next change order.

The Fire Department personnel donated back to the department their individual Safety Awards to the amount of \$1,040. This money was used to purchase a projector and screen for the training room to be used for training purposes. A set of tools, for the first-in truck and extrication gloves for those members that did not have them were also purchased. City Manager Dempsey thanked all members of the department for their generous donation.

The Fire and Ambulance Departments received donations totaling \$3,788 in the Memory of Michael Lay, which will be split evenly between the departments. The Fire Department is using the money to purchase equipment for a Rapid Intervention Bag that will be used to rescue down firefighters in a structure. Traffic safety signs will also be purchased for use on the expressway for traffic control in providing a safe area for firefighters to work when called upon.

The Ambulance Department will be using the money to purchase what is known as an I.O. Gun. This device will allow us to insert an intravenous needle into the bone marrow on adult and child patients when venous access is impossible. Some of the funds will also be used to upgrade the CPR manikins in the department.

On behalf of the City and the Fire and Ambulance Departments, City Manager Dempsey thanked the Michael Lay Family for the donation.

City Manager Dempsey also extended his gratitude to the members of the Fire Department for their donation of their Safety Awards.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he and Council Member Fabiano have been working with Danby and Portland Township on what they hope is a final draft on the Joint Fire and Emergency Services Authority Agreement. They will be meeting with the committee Thursday, March 8th.

The Electric Department recently went ahead with change-out of the oregano filters in diesel fuel spill well monitors approved with Resolution 12-11. Based on the products recovered when the filters were removed it was determined that the oregano filters did not need to be replaced but were removed. The change-out was done at a cost of only \$1,740. The last 3 quarters samples from the monitoring wells came back non-detect. If the next quarter sample also comes back non-detect an appeal will be made to the DEQ for less frequent sampling.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 12-20 to authorize an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Sculpture and Intellectual Property with Mike Pline and a Gift Acceptance Agreement with the Portland Community Arts Council. These resolutions would permit the City to accept a gift of funds raised by the PCAC to purchase the sculpture for placement in Toan Park.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck stated this art work will be a great addition to the City of Portland.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 12-20 Approving, Authorizing, and Directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Sculpture and Intellectual Property with Mike Pline and a Gift Acceptance Agreement with the Portland Community Arts Council.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-21 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Robert Temple to the Portland District Library Board to a term expiring June 30, 2015.

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 12-21 confirming the Mayor's appointment of Robert Temple to the Portland District Library Board.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-22 to approve bids for tax reverted properties. The City previously published a Notice of Intent to sell certain tax reverted properties and invited sealed bids. Bids were received on Island No. 7 and 307 Looking Glass Ave. The high bid for the island was \$3,500 and the high bid for 307 Looking Glass Ave. was \$20,000.01.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired if bids on these properties would cover the cost of taxes borne by the City.

City Manager Dempsey stated the funds would cover those costs and add additional funds to the General Fund. The City will be approximately \$7,500 ahead of what was shorted from the County Treasurer. There are still opportunities on the other tax reverted properties.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 12-22 approving bids for tax reverted properties.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-23 to recognize the Portland Soccer Club as a non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License. The Portland Soccer Club has requested the City Council approve a resolution recognizing them as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License. The City Council has previously recognized other non-profit organizations such as the Portland Athletic Association and the Chamber of Commerce for the same purpose.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 12-23 recognizing the Portland Soccer Club as a non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

Yeas: Fabiano, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

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 February 21, payment of invoices in the amount of \$63,566.92 and payroll in the amount of \$118,888.83 for a total of \$182,455.75. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Representative Callton gave a legislative update. Governor Snyder's proposed budget is consistent with last year's budget as revenue sharing will be dependent on a municipality's performance. There are no cuts to revenue sharing proposed. There is a bill in process that he has issue with that could affect employees of the State's correctional facilities. This bill would permit the State to award bids to private companies if their bid is 10% less than current expenses. This could potentially affect many jobs in this area. There is another bill under discussions that would raise the cap on cyber-schools to 15,000 and would expand the number of companies from 2 to 15.

City Manager Dempsey explained his concern with recently introduced House Bills 5298 and 5299 which propose to add funding for roads by increasing the gas tax and asked Representative Callton for his thoughts on the proposed legislation. These measures also propose to eliminate the tax exempt status of certain government entities, including cities.

Representative Callton commented that many of the constituents he speaks with are concerned with the poor quality of roads in the State. He explained that when gas prices go up it does not mean the State receives more gas tax revenue, as the gas tax is determined by the gallon not by a percentage. When people buy less gas the State receives less revenue. There is also a concern that with more fuel efficient/electric cars becoming more common, this will also cause the State to receive less gas tax revenue. Alternatives such as raising the gas tax or raising vehicle license fees would put more pressure on people. There needs to be a way to handle road funding.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Krause stated that Shane Hagadorn, a film producer, will film a movie in Portland this summer. He will hold an informational meeting at Rush Hour Studios on March 7th at 6:30 p.m. for those interested.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Mr. Temple for volunteering his time to serve on the Portland District Library Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also commented that the Portland Chamber of Commerce held its 1st Annual Business Expo on Saturday, February 25th. The event was very successful.

The VFW will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 15th from 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. and a "Raise the Roof Hoe Down" on Saturday, April 14th at 5:00 P.M. Both events are fundraisers to put a badly needed new roof on the VFW building.

Mayor Barnes thanked the Fire Department members who donated their earned Safety Awards and the Family of Michael Lay for their generous donation to the Fire and Ambulance Departments.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk