

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 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; DDA/Main Street Director Reagan; Police Chief Bauer

Guests: Kathy Parsons; 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.

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

Yeas: Krause, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, 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 also reported a temporary traffic control order that restricts parking on the West side of Lincoln Street between Oak and Hill Streets between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. has been put in place. Because of the heavy demand for parking in that area residents have been experiencing problems cutting their yards, raking leaves to the curb, and having their street swept and plowed. This restriction is being tried to give City crews the opportunity to get the leaves picked up, the street swept and plowed without the obstruction caused by all of the parked cars. Also, the winter overnight parking ban went into effect on November 1st. The Police Department gives warnings for the first two weeks but after that violators will be ticketed.

The State of Michigan passed a law that provides winter shut off protection for eligible low income and senior citizen utility customers that demonstrate eligibility. Low income customers are customers whose household income does not exceed 150% of the Poverty Level or who receive Food Stamps, Medicaid, or assistance from a State Emergency Relief Program. To be eligible for shut off protection, a low income customer must enter a winter protection payment plan to pay the utility a monthly amount equal to 7% of the estimated annual bill. Senior Citizens may register with the City for electric utility shut off protection during the heating season if they can demonstrate they are 65 years old and a customer of the City's Electric Utility.

As authorized by Council Resolution, the MPPA has entered into future transactions on behalf of the City. The transactions were all purchased below the approved thresholds and will be included in the City's MPPA power supply forecasts going forward.

The City is currently using narrow banded pagers to allow the County's Central Dispatch to set off the sirens from Ionia using pagers. While this seems to have solved the problem for now, this remedy has still caused some problems in the City of Ionia, which operates on a different frequency. Last week City Manager Dempsey attended a meeting with the Central Dispatch Director, the County Emergency

Manager, the Ionia County Public Safety Director, and a Radio Technician from Chrouch Communications to solve the concerns about some random warning sirens being set off. Everyone agreed to return the pagers for a full credit and replace them with portable radios with a private line to avoid possible conflicts and interference. Chrouch has agreed not to charge anything for labor since the pager solution did not work out. The cost to switch from the pagers to radios is approximately \$200 per siren. The radios have been ordered and should be installed by the end of the year.

The November General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6th. The polling location for City Residents is on the 2nd Floor of City Hall. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

City offices will be closed on Monday, November 12th in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday.

There is some interest by a developer out of Ohio in rehabilitating Old School Manor. The developer has toured the facility and is research funding options with MSHDA.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan gave his report on Downtown Portland. Holidayfest will be held November 16th and 17th. The event will include carriage rides, a snowball drop, the Holidayfest parade, the lighting of the City Christmas tree, and many other activities hosted by the Portland Arts Council.

The Main Street program will be reapplying for the Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA) in 2012. Last year Portland finished in the Top 10; this honor is awarded to the Top 5.

Under New Business the Council considered Resolution 12-93 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide bridge inspection services for 2012. The Grand River Avenue, Divine Highway, and Bridge Street bridges were last inspected in November 2010 and are due to be re-inspected. New Federal regulations require a special fracture critical inspection to be done on all bridges with fracture critical members at least with the same frequency as the routine inspections in an effort to prevent a catastrophic failure. The Bridge Street Bridge is a historic steel truss bridge with fracture critical members that require special hands-on inspection that will require the bridge to be closed to traffic during the inspection. The bridge closing will be between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to avoid having the bridge closed during peak times of use. Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal will include inspection for all three bridges for \$1,300 and the fracture critical inspection for \$4,900.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 12-96 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide bridge inspection services for 2012.

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-94 to approve a Transfer of Ownership Agreement for two radios obtained by Ionia County under a Homeland Security Grant Program. Ionia County has offered to transfer ownership of those radios to the City pursuant to a Transfer of Ownership Agreement to accept ownership of the equipment and comply with the terms of the Grant. This is the same program and agreement approved when the City received 12 radios in March of this year.

Motion by Krause, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 12-94 approving a Transfer of Ownership Agreement for radios obtained by Ionia County under a Homeland Security Grant program.

Yeas: Krause, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-95 to approve, authorize, and direct the Mayor to sign Amendment #1 to the Community Development Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Portland for the West Educational Leasing, Inc. Façade Project, MSC 210044-CDF. West Educational Leasing Inc. postponed construction due to a downturn in the economy and submitted a revised construction schedule to the Michigan Strategic Fund that still completes the project within the timeframes set forth in the Grant Agreement. The Michigan Strategic Fund has prepared Amendment #1 to the Community Development Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Portland for the project.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Krause, to approve Resolution 12-95 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign Amendment #1 to the Community Development Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Portland for the West Education Leasing, Inc. Façade Project, MSC 210044-CDF.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Krause, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-96 to approve the Board of Light & Power's recommendation to award electric undergrounding work to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. The City direct buried power lines to serve homes on Mulder Drive in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Those lines have begun to fail. The Electric Superintendent inquired and Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. agreed to hold their prior year's bid prices for additional work to replace underground electric lines along Mulder Drive. On October 30th, the Board of Light and Power reviewed the proposed scope of work and estimated a cost of \$45,303.84, based on last year's contract with Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. The Board of Light & Power approved a recommendation that the City Council approve the Mulder Drive electric line replacement project and award the excavation work to Cook Brothers for the amounts estimated, for construction in 2012.

Council Member Calley commented that he would like 3 estimates to be obtained on projects as they are on other purchases.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 12-96 approving the Board of Light & Power's recommendation to award electric undergrounding work to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc.

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Krause, supported by Fabiano, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on October 15, 2012, payment of invoices in the amount of \$68,921.61 and payroll in the amount of \$89,508.28 for a total of \$158,429.89. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: Krause, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member Krause noted production crews have been in Portland the past couple of weeks filming the motion picture "Ashes to Eden".

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck extended kudos to City Manager Dempsey for his presentation on place making at the MML Conference at Mackinac Island. The presentation was very well received.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also commented that his son has just returned from a combat tour in Afghanistan. He earned the Bronze Star during his service there.

Mayor Barnes noted the letter included in the communications from the MML Chairperson thanking City Manager Dempsey for his presentation at the conference.

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