

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, October 15, 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: 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 VanSlambrouck, supported by Fabiano, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Calley, Krause, 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 the City has received more complaints about brown water during the Fall hydrant flushing. The City is using a new hydrant flushing/valve turning program designed by the City's Engineers to better flush the hydrants. This Spring City Staff used a smaller diameter hose which may not have flushed the mains as well as a larger diameter hose. This Fall they went back to the larger hose. Hydrant flushing was prolonged because of a water main break which also shook up the system. The City also drained and filled the water tower at Danby and Hill Streets several times this summer as that tank was painted and the interior blasted and recoated. The City is looking into what can be done to lessen the impact of hydrant flushing and apologizes for the inconvenience.

The City has also received complaints about the Emergency Warning System Sirens going off early in the morning. Last Wednesday Chrouch Communications began changing over the emergency warning sirens and narrow-banding the City's radios. The work on the warning sirens was also supposed to allow the County's Central Dispatch to set off the sirens from Ionia using pager tones. Since that time the City has had some random warning sirens being set off – one at Grand River Ave. and Union St. last Thursday morning just before 5:00 A.M. and one at Charlotte Hwy. and Bridge St. this morning just after 5:00 A.M. Chrouch believes the problem will go away once the narrow-banding is complete on Wednesday of this week.

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

Absentee Ballots for the General Election are available in the Clerk's office at City Hall through Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 P.M. The City Clerk will be in the office on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> for any City resident that is registered to vote and would like to obtain an absentee ballot.

City Manager Dempsey also presented graphs and data from the City's EVIP Report and Dashboard available on the City website rating the City's performance in multiple areas.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan presented information on the Oktoberfest celebration to be held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The event will feature the Big Beer 5K Run, live entertainment all day, great food from the Grand River Conservation Club, a craft fair, craft beer tasting sessions, the airing of the MSU vs. U of M football game, and other activities.

Under New Business the Council considered Resolution 12-91 to approve a contractual rate increase for Biosolids Management Services with Synagro. The City signed a 5-year agreement with Synagro to have them provide biosolids management services colloquially referred to as sludge hauling. The City negotiated a rate freeze for the first two years of the contract and allowed rate increases based on increases in CPI, capped at 3% for the next three years. The impact of Synagro's annual rate increase will be about \$120 less now that the CPI figure from June to June is being used. The bigger savings will come from reducing the amount of biosolids being hauled because of the new thickening process installed as part of the Wastewater Improvement Project.

City Manager Dempsey presented a diagram of the new WWTP process prepared by Superintendent Doug Sherman.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 12-91 approving a contractual rate increase for Biosolids Management Services.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 12-92 to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a Parcel Division Application for the property at 923 Green St. This resolution would approve a lot split that would transfer 12 feet of property from 923 Green St. to the property at 911 Green St. In 2006, the City Council approved a lot split to divide 923 Green St. which contains lots 485 through 496, into two parcels, one comprised of lot 485 and the East half of lot 488 and the other the West half of lot 488, lot 486, 487, and lots 489 through 496.

On October 10<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of a lot split to split an additional 12 feet off of the property at 923 Green St. from its portion of lot 488 and add it to the adjacent parcel at 911 Green St.

The practical impact of this split and transfer would be to place the lot line equally between the buildings on 923 and 911 Green St. All setback requirements are met and both lots would still meet all of the requirements of the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Motion by Krause, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 12-92 approving the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a Parcel Division Application for the property at 923 Green St.

Yeas: Krause, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on October 1, 2012, payment of

invoices in the amount of \$72,718.04 and payroll in the amount of \$107,362.08 for a total of \$180,080.12. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes commented he had an inquiry from citizen a if the City had simplified information on the ballot proposals.

City Manager Dempsey stated he would try to make some information available.

Tom Thelen stated an online voter's guide is available at lsj.com.

City Manager Dempsey stated that Vollman Ford will be holding a "Drive For Your Community" event on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the local Community Fund.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented that 3 of the Council members attended the MML Conference recently held on Mackinac Island. The conference was very good and afforded many networking opportunities. The emphasis was on "place making". The City of Portland is very fortunate to have an engaged DDA/Main Street Director making Downtown Portland a welcoming place with many fun filled events; he thanked him for all his efforts.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk