

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 18, 2011

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes; Mayor Pro-Tem Clement; Council Members VanSlambrouck, Calley and Fabiano; City Manager Dempsey; City Clerk Miller; DDA/Main Street Director Reagan; Police Chief Bauer, and Camera Operator Cummins

Guests: State Representative Mike Callton; Kathy Parsons; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer; Jon Szerlag of the Sentinel Standard

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance led by State Representative Mike Callton.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Clement, 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 stated that with the arrival of Spring also comes dramatic weather changes that can result in severe weather. He reminded residents to be aware of weather warnings. Tornado sirens in the City are tested routinely and will be sounded with a 3-minute blast when there is a tornado warning for the area.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan gave his monthly report. The Downtown Rummage Sale held April 15th and 16th was a success. The Block Party will be held Saturday, May 21st in the Downtown. There will be a car cruise in, live entertainment, kids' activities, a softball tournament, local food vendors, and a party pavilion. This year's event will be hosted by a number of sponsors. Phase I of the Wayfinding signage is now up around the Downtown. Director Reagan also presented information on upcoming seminars.

City Manager Dempsey presented the 2011 Arbor Day Proclamation. The Annual Tree Planting will be held on Friday, April 29th at 2:00 P.M. at Two Rivers Park.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 11-31 to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council to discuss the FY 2011/2012 Budget on Wednesday, April 20th. There was discussion of changing the date to Wednesday, April 27th.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-31 to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council for a Budget Workshop as amended to change the date to Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-32 to approve payment for invoices for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. The City Manager recommended approving and submitting the engineering services invoice for work completed on the WWTP project to the USDA Rural Development office for payment.

Motion by Clement, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 11-32 approving invoices for payment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Yeas: Clement, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-33 to ratify the actions taken and approving payment to Farabee Mechanical Inc. for repairs to the Bessemer Generator at the electric facility. The generator failed to start in January and Farabee Mechanical, Inc. was brought in to diagnose the problem and make needed repairs. Farabee determined water in the cylinder was coming from a hold in the turbo charger. The City purchased spare parts (for pennies on the dollar) when a similar unit was being decommissioned approximately 12 years ago. The cost of the repairs was anticipated to be more than staff's purchase authority but the situation was treated as an emergency so the Board of Light and Power approved going forward with the repairs at their meeting on February 1st and Council was advised at the first meeting in February.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 11-33 ratifying actions taken and approving payment to Farabee Mechanical, Inc. for repairs to the Bessemer Generator.

Yeas: Fabiano, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-34 approving a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement for Cheeky Monkeys LLC to place tables and chairs on the boardwalk in front of their establishment at 176 Kent St.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 11-34 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Boardwalk Café Permit Agreement.

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Abstain: VanSlambrouck

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-35 to approve Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc.'s proposal for the Kent St. water service repair. City staff temporarily stopped a water leak from a 2" galvanized line that serves 4 businesses on Kent St. The galvanized line shows a crack on the seam beyond the clamp that the City installed indicating that the line may fail at any time. The City solicited quotes to replace the line and make repairs before the line fails. City Manager Dempsey sent out notices to the potentially affected properties advising them of the situation and indicating that subject to Council approval repairs would be made on April 20th. City Manager Dempsey recommended awarding the repairs to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc.

Mayor Barnes suggested spending the quoted \$900 to do the work on Sunday when there would be less traffic on Kent St.

There was discussion of this suggestion.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he was trying to be frugal with City monies and that although the mid-week traffic will present a challenge there is some urgency to the needed repairs. City Manager Dempsey also explained that all considerations, including the effect on the area businesses, were evaluated and Wednesday afternoon seemed to be the best day for the repairs.

City Manager Dempsey reported there was another water leak on Kent St. across from City Hall today. The repairs should last an indeterminate amount of time.

There was also discussion of mapping all utility lines on a centralized system. The possibility of using GIS was discussed.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-35 approving Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc.'s proposal for the Kent Street water service repair.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-36 to approve payment of Don VanAmburg's retirement benefit. The City pays a net lump sum retirement benefit to volunteer firefighters equal to their hourly wage times the number of years of service times five. The Fire Chief has requested the City pay Don VanAmburg's retirement benefit posthumously as Don passed away 12 days prior to his expressed retirement date and 50th anniversary of service to the Fire Department.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-36 approving payment of Don VanAmburg's retirement benefit.

Yeas: Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on April 4, 2011, payment of invoices in the amount of \$247,981.98 and payroll in the amount of \$96,845.03 for a total of \$344,827.01. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Public Comment, State Representative Mike Callton gave the Council an update on recent activities in Lansing which has mostly been concentrated around the State Budget. The biggest issues have been the proposed taxing of pensions, the proposed \$300 per pupil cut to schools, and the proposed cuts to Statutory Revenue Sharing.

Under Council Comments, Council Member VanSlambrouck stated that all Council Members had attended the MML Conference in Lansing last week where they were able to network and receive valuable information.

Council Member VanSlambrouck stated that at the Chamber of Commerce dinner Doug Logel was recognized as the Citizen of the Year and Portland Products was recognized as the Business of the Year.

City Manager Dempsey stated that Kim Thorpe was recognized as the Administrator of the Year.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents that the Arbor Day Tree Planting will be held Friday, April 29th at 2:00 P.M. at Two Rivers Park.

City Manager Dempsey reminded residents that the Community Clean Up will be held April 29th and 30th and is a joint effort between the City of Portland, Danby Township and Portland Township. The Hazardous Waste Clean Up will be held on May 7th.

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

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk