

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, February 7, 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; Police Sergeant Ludwig, and Camera Operator Cummins

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Mike Pline; Nancy Marks and Amy Alderman, City Representatives on the Portland District Library Board; Grant Alderman; 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 Grant Alderman.

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

Yeas: Clement, 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 stated that the City's Bessemer Generator at the Electric Plant needs repairs in order for it to operate. The generators were run after the October maintenance and again in November and December without any problems. In January the Bessemer Generator would not start. Mike had Farabee Mechanical evaluate the problem. There is water in the cylinders which is coming from a hole in the turbo charger. Fortunately, the City has purchased spare parts for pennies on the dollar when a similar unit was being decommissioned about 12 years ago. Farabee Mechanical will take the bad turbo charger and the spare one to a shop in Kansas that specializes in these repairs. The cost of the repairs will be more than staff's normal purchase authority but was treated as an emergency. The Board of Light and Power approved going forward with the repairs at their meeting on February 1st. The Council is asked to confirm this action with a motion tonight. Once the actual costs are determined a resolution will be presented requesting formal ratification for the costs incurred.

Ray's Welding has completed the repairs and modifications to the water tower at Danby and Hill Street. They replaced 14' of the 4" overflow pipe that had a split in it and added a 6" flap at the bottom of the pipe. They also added 24 square feet to the top platform making it easier for someone to access the mud valves and installed a 30" platform hatch to bring it into compliance with current code.

As part of the USDA Rural Development requirements the City's WWTP had to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment and update its Emergency Response Plan. Superintendent Doug Sherman worked with the Rural Community Assistance Program to complete these requirements without added costs to the City.

The Police Department will be receiving 3 new 800 MHZ radios for only \$1,677.45. These radios would normally cost \$8,361.00 but \$6,683.55 is being paid for by a Public Safety Interoperability Grant through the Ionia County Office of Emergency Management.

The Fire Department has been busy with 3 structure fires in December and January. Fortunately no one was hurt in any of the fires.

The Planning Commission scheduled for February 9th has been cancelled for lack of agenda items.

City Manager Dempsey acknowledged the efforts of the DPW and the Electric Department in handling the snow removal due to the blizzard on February 2nd. 210 loads of snow were removed from the Downtown.

Under Presentations, Nancy Marks and Amy Alderman, City Representatives on the Portland District Library Board, presented the 2009/2010 Annual Report for the Portland District Library.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 11-05 authorizing the DDA/Main Street Director to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for a \$200,000 CDBG Façade Grant with the job creation and local match being provided by the building owner. Director Reagan has been working closely with the building owner, Bernie Pelc, and his contractor to improve his downtown building and expand his business. Mr. Pelc is planning to make over \$100,000 in improvements to the interior of the building and create 8 full-time equivalent jobs to qualify for the \$200,000 façade grant.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-05 authorizing the DDA Director/Main Street Manager to submit a Notice of Intent to make application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for a Community Development Block Grant for a Downtown Façade Rehabilitation Project.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-06 for the purchase of a new police car in the next budget year. The car must be ordered before March 1st to take advantage of the Macomb County bid price. 2011 is the last year Ford will make the Crown Vic Police Interceptor. Future vehicles will likely cost more unless the equipment currently installed in our police cars can be made to fit the new model. City police cars are currently on a 6-year replacement cycle and have over 100,000 miles on them.

City Manager Dempsey stated he didn't foresee a problem with including this purchase in next year's budget. The purchase will come out of the Motor Pool budget.

Mayor Barnes stated that there are many areas to save money, but when employees are responding to emergencies the City needs to ensure they are equipped appropriately and they and the public are safe.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 11-06 approving the purchase of a new police car.

Yeas: Fabiano, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-07 to allow the City to join the new North American Natural Resource Renewable Energy Committee. This Committee is being created because Granger has been unable to generate sufficient electricity with its landfill gas projects. The Board of Light and Power has recommended joining the committee and approving the agreement so the City can replace the shortfall in renewable energy because of Granger's inability to perform. The agreement has been reviewed by attorneys who agree the City's interests are protected.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-07 approving the North American Natural Resources Renewable Energy Purchase Agreement and participation in the MPPA North American Natural Resources Renewable Energy Project.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-08, the Park and Recreation Board's recommendation to accept the donation of a 24-foot tall, 3-ton sculpture to be installed in a City park if the costs and logistics can be worked out. The resolution would reserve the Council's right to approve the proposed location for the sculpture. Area resident Mike Pline, the artist, finished in the top 75 projects at the 2010 Art Prize Competition in Grand Rapids.

Mayor Barnes extended his congratulations to Mr. Pline on how well the piece was received at Art Prize and extended his appreciation to him for his efforts.

Mr. Pline stated that he would like to recover some the costs involved with the construction of the sculpture. Over 800 hours were spent building the sculpture. It weighs approximately 7200 lbs. The sculpture is made entirely of recycled steel. He will transport and install the sculpture. A cement pad will be needed. Some residents have mentioned a local fundraiser. He would like to see the sculpture placed somewhere along the Grand River, and in particular mentioned between the two bridges across from Powers Park. The chimes on the sculpture would benefit its placement along the river as a strong gust is needed to move them.

Mr. Pline further stated his wishes to see people enjoy and have fun with the sculpture. He thoroughly enjoyed being a part of Art Prize. At the event children, the handicapped and elderly particularly enjoyed the sculpture.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clement suggested the Arts Council's help in raising funds.

Council Member VanSlambrouck commented that public art makes a City unique, and this sculpture would make a great addition to Portland.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 11-08 approving the Park and Recreation Board's recommendation to accept the donation of a sculpture subject to certain conditions.

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-09 to approve changes to Council Policy 77-1 concerning the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. The changes to the policy address the dates and times for interments and the proper disposition of cremated remains.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to revise Council Policy 77-1 concerning the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Clement, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Clement, supported by Fabiano, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 17, 2011, payment of invoices in the amount of \$288,880.55 and payroll in the amount of \$245,100.49 for a total of \$533,981.04. There were purchase orders over \$5,000.00 to Resco in the amount of \$42,240.00 for the purchase of 6 rolls of wire for the west side circuit and to SD Meyers in the amount of \$29,117.00 for the oil flush to the substation transformers to prevent failures.

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Clement commented that the Winter Ball will be held on Saturday, February 12th at the Wagon Wheel. There will be a Mardi Gras theme.

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

Yeas: Fabiano, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk