

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 17, 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; and Police Chief Bauer

Guests: 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.

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 he and Council Member Fabiano had met with representatives of Portland and Danby Townships to review a draft of the proposed Fire Authority Agreement. Based on those discussions and some subsequent emails it appears that there is more discussion needed in regard to the funding formula and the withdrawal and dissolution provisions of the proposed agreement. City Manager stated that he is working on a redraft which will be discussed at another meeting to be scheduled in February.

The Planning Commission met on January 12th to review a request for a sign variance and interpretation of the Sign Ordinance for Tom's Food Center. The Planning Commission considered the request that the proposed change was a permitted change under the ordinance as a "face change". The Commission determined that the proposed modification of the nonconforming sign did not qualify as a permissible change solely in the wording of the copy but rather was an impermissible sign replacement where one nonconforming sign was proposed to be replaced with another nonconforming sign. The applicant withdrew the variance request.

The EDC is scheduled to meet on January 24th to discuss various ideas to market and promote the City of Portland and development here.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 11-04 for release of the final payment to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. for work done on the I-96 Trail Connector Loop Project. The City awarded the contract in the amount of \$180,826.70 to construct a non-motorized pathway in the I-96 right-of-way between Okemos Rd. and Charlotte Hwy. The Council previously approved a Change Order increasing the contract price by \$9,069.10 so the adjusted contract price is \$189,895.80. Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. has installed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund sign and the engineer on the project is recommending the City release the final payment in the amount of \$11,514.79.

Motion by Fabiano, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-04 approving release of the final payment to Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. for work done on the I-96 Trail Connector Loop Project.

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 January 3, 2011, payment of invoices in the amount of \$270,435.94 and payroll in the amount of \$131,827.40 for a total of \$402,263.34. There were purchase orders over \$5,000.00 to the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$6,024.00 and the Michigan Public Power Association in the amount of \$14,601.35 for 2011 membership dues.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member VanSlambrouck asked if Department Heads could present opportunities to cut their budgets during this year's budget process as suggested by Council Member Fabiano at the Council's Goal Setting Session held on January 15th.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clement thanked the community for its support of the Portland Plunge held on January 15th, the Portland Community Arts Council's annual fundraiser, which raised over \$1,000.

Mayor Barnes commented that he noticed the signs being removed from the KFC/Taco Bell property.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he had spoken with the owners of the property. They are in the deidentification process as required by their franchise agreement when the restaurant closes. The City is working with them to preserve the appearance of the building.

Mayor Barnes commented that the Budget Workshop/Goal Setting Session held on January 15th was very productive. He enjoyed the discussion and input from the other Council Members.

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

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk