

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 2, 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 Officer Thomas, and Camera Operator Cummins

Guests: MSU Students Ann Sojka, Josh Kluzak, and Austin Colson; 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 Ann Sojka.

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

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, 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 the Public Notice requesting bids for the proposed improvements to Albro, Church, Grand River and Bridge Sts. this summer had been published. While the improvements will include water main work, the projects will concentrate on improving the road surface. The project should take approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Bids will be opened on May 26th with a bid tabulation and recommendation of award to Council at the meeting on June 6th.

The Community Cleanup was very successful this year with 865 vehicles coming through the gates to drop off rubbish or to recycle electronics. The City had the most participants with 500. Danby Township had 204 participants, and Portland Township had 161 participants.

There was also a good turnout for the River Trail clean up. Parks and Recreation Director Mary Scheurer reported that there were groups from Portland High School, Portland Middle School, Epic Church, ADM, and several members of the community.

City Manager Dempsey reminded residents that the School Board Election would be held on Tuesday, May 3rd. There are 4 candidates running for two open seats.

Ionia County advised the City last week that they were going to short the City's property tax collection by \$33,000 to recover sums advanced over the previous 3 years for unpaid taxes on Old School Manor.

He further acknowledged the City's Department Heads who put in a lot of effort to help create and balance the proposed 2011/2012 Budget.

Under Presentations, MSU Practicum Students, Ann Sojka, Josh Kluzak, and Austin Colson presented the Downtown Market Study commissioned by the Main Street Economic Revitalization Committee chaired by Diane Smith. The students worked closely with DDA/Main Street Director Reagan to conduct surveys and focus groups to better understand the business owner's perspective.

Under New Business, the Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 44B to make it lawful for a craft show or food sale to be sponsored and held by any local civic organization, including the Downtown, when the event is recognized as a community event by a resolution of the City Council.

The Council considered Resolution 11-37 to set a Public Hearing for May 16, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 11-37 setting a Public Hearing on the Budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-38 to set a Public Hearing for May 16, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. on a CDBG Grant Application for a property owner to rehabilitate the front and rear façade on a building in the Downtown.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 11-38 setting a Public Hearing on a CDBG Grant Application.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Clement, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-39 to approve the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to approve Farabee Mechanical, Inc.'s proposal to place emission reduction equipment on the generators at the Electric Plant. The United States EPA has developed National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) that will require 70% emission reduction for carbon monoxide (CO) for the diesel and dual fuel generating equipment. The generators at the Electric Plant fall under the EPA's regulations and must be modified to reduce emissions if they are to continue to operate. The Board of Light and Power met on April 26th and is recommending the City Council approve Farabee Mechanical's proposal for the sum of \$302,018.00. The City has adequate funds available in the 2010-2011 Budget to pay the \$50,000 to initiate the contract and has included sufficient funds in the 2011-2012 Budget to complete the project.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Council and City Manager in regard to the current contracts for purchased power and the credits received for having the generators available to generate electricity, both historically and looking forward to the future.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 11-39 approving the Board of Light and Power's recommendation to approve Farabee Mechanical, Inc.'s proposal to place emission reduction equipment on the generators at the Electric Plant.

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 April 18, 2011 and the City Council Budget Workshop held on April 27, 2011, payment of invoices in the amount of \$90,179.91 and payroll in the amount of \$128,882.83 for a total of \$219,062.74. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fabiano stated that he had spoken with Portland Township Supervisor Jerry Tiemann in regard to the Draft Fire Authority Agreement. Portland Township and Danby Township held a joint meeting with their legal counsel. They are in agreement on most items in the Draft Agreement but they share some concern with the termination clause as it seems to be unfair to the City.

Mayor Barnes thanked all City employees for their hard work and efforts with the Community Cleanup.

Mayor Barnes stated that the “Spring into the Past” event was held over the past weekend on the 2nd Floor of City Hall where there was historical memorabilia from Portland displayed.

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

Yeas: Clement, Fabiano, VanSlambrouck, Calley, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk