

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, November 21, 2011

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; Police Chief Bauer; Police Officer Thomas

Guests: Julie Clement; Denise Barnes; Family Members of Stacy Krause; Kathy Parsons; Jon Szerlag of the Sentinel-Standard; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by City Clerk Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk held the swearing in for reelected Council Members Barnes and VanSlambrouck and newly elected Council Member Krause.

City Clerk Miller opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Motion by VanSlambrouck to nominate Barnes as Mayor based on his excellent service as Mayor for the past 8 years. The motion was supported by both Krause and Fabiano.

City Clerk Miller closed nominations for Mayor.

City Clerk Miller held the vote for the election of Barnes as Mayor.
All in favor. None opposed.

City Clerk Miller announced Barnes as the Mayor and turned the meeting over to him.

Mayor Barnes opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Motion by Fabiano to nominate VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem based on his dedication to Portland and service on many Boards and Committees. The motion was supported by Krause.

Mayor Barnes closed nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Barnes held the vote for the election of VanSlambrouck as Mayor Pro-Tem.
All in favor. None opposed.

Mayor Barnes announced VanSlambrouck as the Mayor Pro-Tem.

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

Yeas: Krause, 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 that he would have a spreadsheet detailing the safety awards for the prior three-year period available at the next Council meeting.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he is working on obtaining more information on Tax Reverted Parcels within the City. The City will have until December 30th to reject the parcels otherwise they will be conveyed to the City. He presented aerial photos of the properties.

The Council further discussed the issue.

City Manager Dempsey stated that the City is also working with the County on improving signal strength for the County Fire Frequency in the southeast part of the County by allowing them to locate on the water tower at Hill and Danby Streets. The City will need to relocate the local government frequency to the EMS building because of interference. The County will pay for the relocation. Tests are being conducted to determine if the location at the EMS building will work for the City.

The City is also working on an arrangement to allow City utility customers and residents the option of paying utility bills and taxes with a credit card.

City Manager Dempsey commented that the HolidayFest and inaugural parade were wonderful events for the Downtown.

City Manager Dempsey stated that he and Council Member Fabiano met with Township representatives on the proposed Fire Authority Agreement to comment on the revised draft received from their attorneys.

Under New Business, Council considered Resolution 11-113 to approve the purchase of new copiers for City Hall and the Police Department. The copier at City Hall is seven years old and has been breaking down frequently. The City solicited proposals from different vendors and demonstrated the lease expensive copier with the desired features, an e-Studio 855. The copier is a unit that came in with a damaged stapler finisher. The stapler finisher was replaced and the City has been offered a below market price for the rehabilitated machine. The proposal from Hasselbring Clark includes a free gently used machine for the EMS Building and the e-Studio 855 with the scanning and fax options for \$9,838. This is the lowest cost proposal and will reduce the City's copying costs. In 2004 the City purchased an e-Studio 650 for \$12,835 and an e-Studio 280 for the EMS Building for \$5,479 for a grand total of \$18,314. This proposal will allow the City to update its worn out equipment for \$8,476 less than it spent in 2004.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 11-113 approving the purchase of new copiers.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Calley, Fabiano, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-114 to re-appoint the Police Chief as the City of Portland representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors because of his expertise and his department's daily interaction with Central Dispatch. The Police Chief's current two-year appointment to the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors is due to expire at the end of December.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fabiano, to approve Resolution 11-114 appointing the Police Chief as the City of Portland Representative on the Ionia County Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 11-115 to approve the repair of an Electric Code violation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Davis Construction, Inc. discovered there was no fused disconnect between the transfer switch for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Generator and the electric service so that in the event of an electric outage the generator would run to provide power to the plant but it would also energize lines that normally bring power into the plant which is a violation of code and poses a hazard to electric line workers. Proposals were solicited to install a fused disconnect with the materials being purchased through Kendall Electric at the City's cost. Dave Keilen, of D&E Electric will provided a bid for the electric permit and labor. City Electric Superintendent Hyland advises that he can coordinate the installation of the new ground level transformer at the same time.

Motion by Krause, supported by Calley, to approve Resolution 11-115 approving repair of an Electric Code violation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Yeas: Krause, Calley, VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fabiano, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting and the Closed Session held on November 7, 2011, payment of invoices in the amount of \$180,170.97 and payroll in the amount of \$108,229.19 for a total of \$288,400.16. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fabiano stated that all parties on the Committee on the proposed Fire Authority Agreement are working hard to achieve the goal of forming a Fire Authority. It seems like an agreement may be close at hand.

Mayor Barnes thanked Council Member Fabiano and City Manager Dempsey for their time and effort working on the Proposed Fire Authority Agreement.

Mayor Barnes acknowledged the efforts of DDA/Main Street Manager Reagan in organizing the HolidayFest parade. The excellent result was consistent with the hard work he puts into his position. He further thanked all of those involved in another successful HolidayFest.

Mayor Barnes commented that he appreciated the support from his fellow Council Members and the community in electing him to serve on the City Council for 4 more years. He stated that he has been serving since 1999.

Council Member Fabiano commented on how nice the HolidayFest parade was. It was a great turnout and a big parade for the first year. He commented that he looks forward to seeing it grow in future years.

Council Member VanSlambrouck thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. He also echoed the sentiments of the other Council Members in what a nice event HolidayFest was.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fabiano, Calley, Krause, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk