

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, December 15, 2014

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Smith, Fitzsimmons, and Butler; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Knobelsdorf; Patrol Officer Thomas; DDA/Main Street Director Reagan

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Tom Thelen of the Review & Observer

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

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Smith, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the Friends of the Red Mill presented the Planning Commission with the plans for the proposed Red Mill Pavilion at their meeting on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was to familiarize them with the project and obtain comments pertaining to the functionality of the project related to the site plan. Fundraising for the project is underway; excitement for the project is building.

City Manager Gorman stated he has been in contact with Craig Patterson of the Woda Group in regard to the Old School Manor. They expect to have strong indicators by the first of the year from MSHDA whether they are likely to receive funding for the project or not. If they do not; the City will consider other avenues for the property.

The MDEQ has sent the City a letter stating that they have received the FEMA Floodplain documents and they are found to be complete and compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participation requirements.

The Portland Police Department has created a Facebook page, as many law enforcement units have done, in order to connect with the community. Since Wednesday, there have already been over 1000 likes. With good management, it is expected that this new means of communication with the community will be very effective.

Portland Police Officer Star Thomas expressed her excitement about the new page and explained what type of information will be shared on the Facebook page.

Council Member Butler commented that communication is key to relationships; the new Police Department Facebook page will open more means of communication to the public. He is glad to see

this proactive step being taken. He further reminded Portland residents to be vigilant in their surroundings.

Council Member Smith commented that this will provide another way to promote the City of Portland.

City Manager Gorman commented that the City of Portland is fortunate to have such professional police officers on staff and thanked them for their service to the community.

City Manager Gorman further reported Consumers Energy was working on an emergency gas main leak in the 100 block of Kent Street today. They expect to have the issue resolved this evening.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Reagan gave a report on downtown activities and wished Happy Holidays to everyone. The 2014 Holidayfest on the Grand was a great time filled with many fun-filled events. He also welcomed Fabiano's River House Grill, formerly Duke's Cajun Grill, to downtown.

Mayor Barnes thanked DDA/Main Street Director Reagan for his leadership with the Holidayfest on the Grand festivities. He further thanked the Electric Department for their assistance in putting up the holiday lights in the downtown.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 14-108 to authorize the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for a Small Wine Maker License Application for The Gallery Brewery, LLC at 143 Kent St. They currently operate as a micro-brewery and would like to produce wine at their facility as well. A "small wine maker" license holder may sell wine it manufactures to consumers for on-premises consumption at the winery in conjunction with a restaurant on the winery premises.

Motion by Butler, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 14-108 approving, authorizing, and directing the City Clerk to sign a Resolution of Local Approval for a Small Wine Maker License Application for The Gallery Brewery, LLC.

Yeas: Butler, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Smith, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Smith, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on December 1, 2014, payment of invoices in the amount of \$69,429.91 and payroll in the amount of \$147,840.74 for a total of \$217,270.65. Also included was a purchase order to the Portland Area Fire Authority in the amount of \$25,628.28 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter services.

Yeas: Smith, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman reminded residents that parking is prohibited on City streets between 2:00 and 6:00 A.M. through April 1<sup>st</sup> to aid DPW crews in the safe removal of snow. He also reminded residents that shoveling or blowing snow into the streets is also prohibited.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce held the Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The event was a great success.

City Manager Gorman also reminded residents that City Hall will be closed Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 P.M. through Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday and Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> through Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the New Year's Holiday.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes noted the application included in the Communications from Carol Stahl for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Barnes also noted that the Fabiano's River House Grill opened today.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Mayor Barnes thanked the DPW for replacing the flags on the Grand River Ave. Bridge.

City Manager Gorman noted that it has been 4 months since he was hired as City Manager, he thanked the City Council for the opportunity. He further stated that he enjoys the position and is blown away by the staff and employees of the City. They are all extremely talented and have professional abilities. It has been truly a pleasure to get to know everyone. He further wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Barnes noted that Tim Krizov, employee at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, recently obtained an additional license. He congratulated him on this achievement.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to adjourn the regular meeting.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Smith, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk