

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, January 19, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Mayor Barnes

Guests: Representative Mike Callton; 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 Fitzsimmons, supported by Butler, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented with the excusal of Mayor Barnes.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman reported that he and Council Member Fitzsimmons toured the Old School Manor building with Craig Patterson of the WODA Group along with the architects and contractors to assess the feasibility of development of the property and assessing whether to move forward with the MSHDA funding application April deadline date. There is still positive interest in the property.

City Manager Gorman presented the new City logo designed by CivicPlus. This new logo is not intended to replace the current logo.

Under Presentations, State Representation Mike Callton gave a report on the road funding package being proposed by the State and expected to be on the ballot in May. The proposal would correct the double taxation and disparity between gasoline and diesel fuels. The current tax is \$.19 per gallon of gas, which goes to roads, plus 6% sales tax, that goes to the General Fund. There is currently a \$.15 tax on diesel plus the 6% sales tax. The proposal would make a 14.6% tax on the wholesale price of both gasoline and diesel that would go to roads and would add 1% to the sales tax, making it 7%, on all purchases except gasoline and diesel that would go the General Fund. As constitutionally sales tax goes to the General Fund this would also add to Revenue Sharing.

There was discussion.

DDA/Main Street Director Reagan gave the DDA/Main Street Report. This year's Block Party will be held on Saturday, May 16th in downtown Portland. The event will feature live music at the Party Pavilion, fun entertainment for the kids, crafters, and the return of the BBQ contest. The Portland Pay Day, "Shop Local" campaign, will begin June 1st and run through Friday, August 22nd. The prize drawing will be held

on Thursday, August 27th in conjunction with the final “Thursday’s on the Grand” concert. All four of the Portland Main Street committees are currently working on developing a comprehensive set of work plans for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-03 to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve the 2015 Master Plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck commented on the amount of work that went into developing this wonderful document that will guide the City. He thanked everyone for their efforts.

City Manager Gorman stated that the Planning Commission held the Public Hearing on the Master Plan on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. The Master Plan process went very well with the help of McKenna Associates, they spent time in the community gathering insights. There were positive comments received from the Portland Township Planning Commission members.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 15-03 approving the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve the 2015 Master Plan, as per the requirements of the Municipal Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-04 to set the mileage charge for ambulance service to the allowable Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) mileage rate of \$12.32 per mile. The ambulance service is currently charging \$12.14 per mile to transport patients to the hospital. The ambulance contracts approved by the Council state that ambulance charges will be based on rates approved by the Council. The City Manager and Ambulance Director recommend using the BCBS allowable mileage charge as an index.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 15-04 approving setting the mileage charge for ambulance service at the allowable Blue Cross Blue Shield mileage rate.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Butler, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 5, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$241,795.80 and payroll in the amount of \$105,063.91 for a total of \$346,859.71. There were purchase orders over \$5,000 to the Michigan Public Power Agency in the amount of \$15,004.02 and the Michigan Municipal Electric Association in the amount of \$6,586.00 for 2015 membership dues.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

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 1st to aid DPW crews in the safe removal of snow. He also reminded residents that shoveling or blowing snow into the streets is prohibited.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked Representative Callton for attending tonight's meeting to explain possible legislation.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck

Nays: None

Absent: Barnes

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk