

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, March 2, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Butler, and Clement; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Deputy Treasurer Tolan; Police Chief Knobelsdorf; Eric Proctor

Guests: Craig Patterson of the WODA Group; Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink; Karen Bota of the Sentinel Standard; 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 led by Jon Moxey.

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

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Clement, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under Presentations, Craig Patterson of the WODA Group, presented a building layout and landscaping plans for their proposed redevelopment project of Old School Manor at 306 Brush Street. They plan to submit their proposal to MSHDA by the April 1st deadline in hopes of securing funding for the project. City Manager Gorman had a crucial meeting with Old Skool Transportation in regard to the transportation issue that was lacking when they submitted the same application previously. The meeting went well. Mr. Patterson indicated the WODA Group is encouraged and would like to be a part of the community and the good things happening here.

Council Member Clement inquired if there are any other issues beyond the transportation issue.

Mr. Patterson stated that cost containment with credit efficiency in relation to the total development cost is another issue. Currently, they are estimating the project at approximately \$7 million. They have also filed a Part I application with SHPO for historical credits.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck inquired how long before they would know if the project will move forward.

Mr. Patterson stated that the project rankings mid-April will reveal some indicators. There should be some strong indication by the end of June or early July. Official letters of award are sent out towards the end of July.

Mr. Patterson noted that the WODA Group won a Governor's Award for a project in Menominee, Michigan that involved the redevelopment of a 4-story department store. This is their second such award, the first was for a project in Durand, Michigan.

Mayor Barnes noted his appreciation to Mr. Patterson and the WODA Group for attending the meeting and for the effort they have put forth on this proposed project.

Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on the three vehicular bridges that need improvement and that are suggested for application for funding through the Local Bridge Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The proposed funding would pay for 95% of the construction costs, the City would pay a 5% match and the engineering costs. Applications for this program are often submitted more than one time before they are funded. The ranking is determined through the bridge inspection process. As there are different categories of funding, Fleis & VandenBrink recommends submitting applications for all three bridges. They may not be chosen for funding in any particular order. An award this year would mean funding for a 2018 project.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-13 to approve the Ambulance Services Agreements with surrounding jurisdictions that would like the City to provide ambulance service to their citizens and the Care Plan Membership Agreement form for households that choose to participate to limit their out-of-pocket expenses for the uninsured portions of their ambulance bills.

Motion by Butler, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-13 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign Ambulance Services Agreements with Danby Township, Portland Township, Westphalia Township, Orange Township, Lyons Township, the Village of Westphalia, the Village of Pewamo, and Sebewa Township and approving the Care Plan Membership Agreement form.

Yeas: Butler, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-14 to update the authorized contact on the City credit card account by designating Deputy Treasurer, Melinda Tolan and City Clerk, Monique Miller as the only authorized contacts.

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-14 approving an update of the authorized contact for the City credit card account.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-15 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to apply for funding through the Local Bridge Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) after the City conducted bridge inspections in 2014 of its three vehicular bridges and concluded that repairs, maintenance, and eventual replacement are necessary. This program provides funds for 95% of the construction costs, with a local agency being responsible for a 5% match and engineering costs. The City's engineer, Fleis & VandenBrink is proposing to apply for funding through the Local Bridge Program on behalf of the City for \$2,400.00.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 15-15 approving Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to apply for funding through the Local Bridge Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Butler, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-16 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-16 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge over the Looking Glass River.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-17 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 15-17 approving submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Butler, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-18 to approve the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program funds for preventative maintenance of the Grand River Avenue Bridge over the Grand River.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-18 approving the submittal of an application for Local Bridge Program Funds for preventative maintenance of the Grand River Avenue Bridge over the Grand River.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on February 17, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$65,476.25 and payroll in the amount of \$140,616.02 for a total of \$206,092.27. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that effective after March 3, 2015, CBS Lansing from WLNS will no longer be available on the WOW! Cable lineup for Grand Rapids as it is a duplicate CBS feed.

The Portland Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Legislative Luncheon on Monday, March 9th at the Wagon Wheel.

The Main Street Promotions & Marketing Committee will hold the annual Block Party on Saturday, May 16th.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes commented that he would like to see more improvement from WOW! and suggested writing letters of concern to the organization in the hopes that an orchestrated voice will encourage change. The City has limited power over the cable company as it owns the infrastructure and City ordinances have been superseded by State law.

Mayor Barnes further reminded residents that the spring time change will take effect next Sunday, March 8th.

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

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk