

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, April 6, 2015

In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

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

Yeas: Butler, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated the Woda Group submitted the grant application to MSHDA for funding of the redevelopment of the former Old School Manor at 306 Brush St. This is a very competitive grant process. Indicators for approval should be available in August.

The Parks and Recreation Department also submitted a DNR Acquisition Grant application on April 1, 2015 for purchase of additional park property at Two Rivers Park.

The updated site plan has been received for the Red Mill Pavilion Project and will be presented to Council at its April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The pumps previously approved by Council for the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been received and installed. Everything appears to be working well at this point.

Under Presentations, Mayor Barnes presented the Arbor Day Proclamation and reminded everyone that a tree planting ceremony will be held on Friday, April 24, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Community Lake Park. Seedlings are also distributed to second graders at both Oakwood Elementary and St. Pat's.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-27 to approve a Redevelopment Liquor License application for Olivera's LLC for the property located at 1417 E. Grand River Ave., formerly the Taco Bell/KFC property. There is a purchase agreement in place contingent on obtaining a liquor license.

Mayor Barnes noted that because the number of liquor licenses allowed in a community are limited, Portland's DDA makes the Redevelopment Liquor License a possibility.

Motion by Clement, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-27 approving a Redevelopment Liquor License Application from Olivera's LLC for the property located at 1417 E. Grand River Avenue.

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-28 to approve M&M Pavement Marking, Inc's bid and Advanced Pavement Marking's Bid for 2015 street painting. After requesting bids from various contractors, DPW Foreman Gensterblum and City staff recommend the work for 2015 street painting in the amount of \$11,387.29 with both companies doing part of the work.

Council Member Butler inquired if the left turn arrows painted on many of the city streets are actually necessary and if there could be some cost savings by eliminating some of them.

City Manager Gorman suggested a new traffic study may need to be completed in order to determine their necessity.

There was continued discussion.

Mayor Barnes stated a traffic study is also needed to sequence the traffic lights along Grand River Avenue. At this time, the City does not have the appropriate, expensive equipment needed to change the timing of the traffic lights. Rather than waiting for possible funding through MDOT, the City would need to take it upon itself to address this issue.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-28 approving M&M Pavement Marking, Inc. and Advanced Pavement marking's bid for 2015 street painting.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Clement, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-29 a Resolution of Intent to vacate the public alley located South of Brush Street and East of Vessey Street as a result of a resident request to provide for its occupation and use by adjacent property owners. City staff has reviewed the request and determined the alley is unimproved and is not presently used or maintained by the City and results in a dead-end. The City's DPW has reviewed the request and determined that public and private utilities may exist within the alley, but they can be operated and maintained through the reservation of an easement. Prior to the Council's consideration, a Public Hearing is necessary to allow the adjacent property owners, and any other interested party an opportunity to comment. The Council will hold a Public Hearing at its meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Motion by Butler, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-29 a Resolution of Intent to vacate the public alley located South of Brush Street and East of Vessey Street.

Yeas: Butler, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes  
Nays: None  
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-30 to revise the MERS Hybrid Plan adoption agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) and to authorize and direct the City Manager to sign the required documents. The City has reformed its pension plan for all employees hired after July 1, 2010 so that new hires will be placed in a MERS Hybrid Pension with a 1% Defined Benefit (DB) pension multiplier that cannot be

increased and a Defined Contribution portion that requires new hires to contribute 3% of their wages to the Defined Contribution (DC) pension portion. The Employer's DB and DC combined pension contribution is capped at 7% and if the DB portion costs less than 7%, the Employer will contribute the difference to the employees DC portion. MERS requires the approval of the revised MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) by City Council.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-30 approving the revised MERS Hybrid Plan adoption agreements (Benefit Program HA/HB) and approving, authorizing, and directing the City Manager to sign same.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 16, 2015 and the Special City Council Meeting held on March 18, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$45,937.85 and payroll in the amount of \$88,500.78 for a total of \$134,438.63. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that progress on the Cutler Road Improvement Project is going well and reminded residents to honor the "no thru traffic" signs. He stated that Keusch's have agreed to allow traffic accessing the Church of the Nazarene to use their parking lot and to please use caution when doing so.

The Water Department will conduct its preventative maintenance program on the water system by flushing all hydrants from April 6<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

The annual Clean-up Day will be held Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the DPW compound from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. This is a joint effort with Portland Township and Danby Township.

A "Burger Night" fund raising campaign will be held at the VFW on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. to benefit the Red Mill Pavilion Crowd Funding efforts.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck explained the grant opportunity the Friends of the Red Mill are trying to take advantage of through the MEDC. The State of Michigan will match \$50,000 raised through crowd funding through April 15, 2015. The people in the community are making donations through social media and other means.

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

Yeas: Clement, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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James E. Barnes, Mayor

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Monique I. Miller, City Clerk