

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 4, 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; Police Officer Thomas; Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director Scheurer; Eric Proctor

Guests: Steve Paradiso; 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, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under the City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated there have been discussions about re-evaluating the Grand River Access Management Plan to determine if it is achieving its purpose and desired results. He further stated that Grand River Ave. will be the next City road in line for the Small Urban Funding that is being used for the Cutler Rd. and Kent St. projects. City engineers suggested it may be more feasible to evaluate the plan during the planning stages of a potential project on Grand River Ave.

There was discussion.

City Manager Gorman also stated discussions have resumed with ADM Alliance Nutrition in regard to the demolition of the silos on the corner of Grand River Ave. and Divine Hwy. They obliged the request by the City to hold off demolition until this summer after the school year is finished. There have been no decisions on whether or not the City will accept the property.

The pump replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant previously approved by Council has been completed. The final walk-through was held today, the City is pleased with the project result.

The Public Hearing on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 was opened at 7:16 P.M.

Mayor Barnes noted the budget is a good end product of an incredible amount of work.

City Manager Gorman stated the budget process has been a great learning process. The new City Treasurer has provided an opportunity to look at the budget and its process with a fresh pair of eyes.

He further stated there have not been many changes from last year. The proposed budget does include a 2% increase to both the water and wastewater rates. The water rate has not been raised since 2010. It is a requirement of the bonding on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project that the wastewater

rate be evaluated each year to ensure there are enough revenues to cover expenditures for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Barnes noted that the City has decided to also review the water rates annually.

City Manager Gorman commented that staff is looking at different means to evaluate the budget to ensure it is a “living” document. One method will be to hold quarterly meetings with Department Heads to evaluate budget revenues and expenditures.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:24 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-35 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck thanked the staff for all of their hard work preparing the proposed budget.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-35 to adopt the City of Portland’s annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-36 to approve a license agreement to farm the 52.9 acres at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd. owned by the City for economic development purposes. The City Council charged the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with planning and making recommendations for development of this property. The EDC does not anticipate any development activity will occur during 2015 and recommends the City permit a license to farm the property. Mr. Francis Hoerner has indicated he would like to farm the property and is willing to renew the license to farm the property with the understanding that the current Cutler Road construction may prevent him from farming the entire property.

City Manager Gorman noted that this agreement is substantially the same as the one approved in previous years but has been changed to address the road construction and that the property must be accessed from Grand River Ave.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-36 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a license agreement to farm the 52.9 acres at Grand River Ave. and Cutler Rd.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-37 to approve a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School on the 3rd of July to celebrate Independence Day. The fireworks and parade will be held on Friday, July 3rd as costs are substantially less than on a weekend.

Motion by Butler, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 15-37 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a permit for a fireworks display at Portland High School.

Yeas: Butler, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-38 to approve Pay Request No. 2 to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for work performed on the Cutler Road project in the amount of \$78,641.30. The City Engineer on the project has reviewed the pay request and is recommending its approval.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-38 approving Pay Request No. 2 to the Michigan Department of Transportation for work performed on the Cutler Road project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-39 to approve the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation to join the Peaking Capacity Service Committee to assess options for peaking capacity including distributed generation and other peaking resources. As capacity shortfalls become more prevalent in the future, finding new sources of capacity will become critical. At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 28, 2015 the Board of Light and Power passed a recommendation that the City Council join the Peaking Capacity Service Committee as recommended by the MPPA.

Motion by Clement, supported by Butler, to approve Resolution 15-39 approving the Michigan Public Power Agency's (MPPA) recommendation for the City's Board of Light and Power to join the Peaking Capacity Service Committee.

Yeas: Clement, Butler, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 15-40 to approve the Park and Recreation Board's recommendation to accept the donation of playground equipment for Community Lake Park. Local residents, Ben Durrant and Kurt Pline have children diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, which is a rare genetic disorder that affects brain development and occurs almost exclusively in girls. A fundraising organization named Emma's Avengers was established to solicit funds for Rett Syndrome research and to benefit those diagnosed with the disorder. The organizers now wish to donate handicap accessible playground equipment to the City of Portland. At its meeting on March 26, 2015 the Park and Recreation Board approved the donation of the playground equipment for Community Lake Park.

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Director Scheurer presented and explained a photo of the proposed playground equipment.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 15-40 approving the Park and Recreation Board's recommendation to accept the donation of playground equipment for Community Lake Park.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

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 April 20, 2015 and the City Council Budget Workshop on April 23, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$215,543.00 and payroll in the amount of \$95,879.56 for a total of \$311,422.56. Purchase orders to Fleis & VandenBrink for engineering services in the amount of \$6,027.63 for Kent Street and \$23,223.68 for Cutler Road were included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that Thursdays on the Grand will be held every Thursday beginning in June through August.

He further reminded residents that the State of Michigan Special Election to vote on Proposal 15-1 will be held tomorrow Tuesday, May 5th. Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Legislative Luncheon on Monday, May 11th at Noon at the Wagon Wheel.

The Block Party will be held on Saturday, May 16th.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck encouraged residents to vote in the Special Election.

Mayor Barnes thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting ceremony held for Michigan Steel and Trim, a new business in the business park that was formerly Builders Lumber.

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

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk