

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, May 18, 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 Chief Knobelsdorf; Interim Main Street Manager Perry; Mindy Tolan; Eric Proctor

Guests: Paul Galdes and Steve VandenBrink of Fleis & VandenBrink; Denise Barnes; Harold Keena; Kathy Parsons; Dr. Jason Williamson; Portland Police Sergeant Becky Ludwick; Police Officers Tom Tietsma and his wife Rocky, Star Thomas, TJ, Sarah and Connor Heald; Timothy Fandel, and Timothy Groenhof; 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 TJ and Connor Heald.

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 the Cutler Rd. project is on schedule. They are currently finishing the curb and gutter. The final grading is expected to be done by Wednesday with paving following.

A ground breaking ceremony for the Red Mill Pavilion Project was held last week. A detour on Water St. between Grand River Ave. and Quarterline St. will be in place tomorrow through Thursday as utilities are put in place.

Discussions are ongoing with ADM Alliance Nutrition in regard to the demolition of the silos on the corner of Divine Hwy. and Grand River Ave.

Council Member Butler asked about the status of lighting for Cutler Rd.

City Manager Gorman stated the City is still in the process of selecting the appropriate lighting for the road. Lights similar to those in the downtown are desired, but will have to be ordered. They will not be delivered until this fall.

Under Presentations, Police Chief Knobelsdorf noted the recent passing of former Police Chief Mike Pierce and extended his condolences to his family.

Police Chief Knobelsdorf acknowledged National Police Week and presented awards to Portland's police officers in recognition of the work they do.

Mayor Barnes stated it is worthwhile to recognize the efforts of our police officers.

City Manager Gorman recognized Interim Main Street Manager Shelley Perry for the excellent job she did stepping in to put on the Block Party which was a great event.

Interim Main Street Manager Perry gave a report on activities in downtown Portland. There were 3 applicants for the DDA Façade Grant, there was one grant awarded to Fabiano's River House Grill. The Block Party was held on Saturday, May 16th with the largest attendance so far. The Portland Pay Day event will begin June 1st and run through August 21st.

In conjunction with the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce the Economic Revitalization Committee will hold a Business After Hours Event at Fabiano's River House Grill on June 18th from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. to provide an opportunity for business networking.

The Portland Main Street has been awarded a customer service workshop by the Michigan Main Street to be held this fall. This will be a free training for Portland businesses to sharpen their customer service skills.

Eric Proctor provided information on the Beerfest on the Bridge to be held Saturday, August 1st.

Steve VandenBrink of Fleis & VandenBrink presented the design specifications for the Kent Street Project which will take place from Academy St. to I-96. Challenges will include the need to increase the size of the sidewalk from 4' to 5' which will require some retaining walls. There will also be trees that need to be removed. There will be five property owners contacted about granting grading permits.

There was discussion.

Paul Galdes gave an overview of the funding process for the project. The City will receive \$375,000 from MDOT because of its Small Urban status. The project was originally planned to be a mill and overlay until it was discovered that sewer work also needs to be done. The project is planned to be sent out for bid in September with construction to begin in spring 2016, because of the funding deadline. Some work may even be required to be done in the fall or winter with the actual road construction next June. In 2017 the City of Portland will again be eligible for this funding so it will need to consider which project will be the next priority.

Under New Business, the Council considered Resolution 15-41 to sell 508 shares of Prudential common stock and 1 share of Spok Holdings, Inc. common stock. The City is precluded from holding common stock pursuant to MCL 129.91 and would like to liquidate and sell the stock.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Clement, to approve Resolution 15-41 approving and authorizing the City Treasurer to sell shares of common stock owned by the City of Portland.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Clement, VanSlambrouck, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Clement, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 4, 2015, payment of invoices in the amount of \$127,101.06 and payroll in the amount of \$135,703.91 for a total of

\$262,804.97. A purchase order to Granger Container in the amount of \$9,490.00 for the community clean-up was included.

Yeas: Clement, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Butler, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman acknowledged the passing of former Police Chief Mike Pierce.

City Manager Gorman also noted the detour on Water St. starting tomorrow for placement of utilities for the Red Mill Pavilion Project.

City Manager Gorman requested that residents not blow grass clippings into the streets as it substantially clogs the storm drains.

City Manager Gorman stated the City is on the verge of going live with its new website which will be a substantial change although it will still be a work in progress.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Clement noted that Thursdays on the Grand will begin in June.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck extended congratulations and thanks to all of the volunteers that made the Block Party a success. He further extended many thanks to the Police Department for all that they do.

Mayor Barnes also extended his appreciation to the volunteers for their efforts in making the Block Party a success. He thanked former DDA/Main Street Director Reagan for his help as he was officially a “volunteer” and acknowledged the great job Mr. Reagan did as DDA/Main Street Director.

Mayor Barnes extended his condolences to the family of former Police Chief Mike Pierce.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Butler, VanSlambrouck, Clement, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk