

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Portland held on Monday, November 15, 2004, in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Barnes, Councilmembers Alderman, Habegger, Parsons, City Manager Dempsey, City Clerk Bailey.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Devlin

Guests: Lee & Lu Ann Starks, Lorna Selden, Larry Tygesen, Kathleen Burns, Don Flanders, Mary Scheurer, and Kim Patrick-Chapman the camera operator.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor James E. Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, to approve the agenda as presented after adding Excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Devlin, add presentation by Parks & Recreation Director Mary Scheurer, and omit D. First reading of a proposed ordinance to amend the City Code of Ordinance concerning the Parking Violations Bureau, and increase parking fines.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Devlin, due to a prior commitment.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Economic Development Director Don Flanders handed Council packets with the same information that was given to persons who attended an MEDC Conference in Bay City and were interested in relocating in various communities in Michigan. Mr. Flanders showed a locational map to inform prospective clients where Portland is, and another picture depicting various venues of downtown Portland and the Rivertrail. Mr. Flanders indicated the meeting in Bay City was an outstanding program on the Revitalization of the Downtown. He stated he was very impressed with what Detroit is doing to revitalize their riverfronts with funds from GM and other investors. He also stated we are making sure that Portland has a good market program to revitalize our downtown, and have had several meetings with downtown merchants. He said he would be forwarding a report to the Downtown Development Authority on Thursday, November 18th for suggestions on the revitalization of the downtown. Mayor Barnes stated not only did Mr. Flanders attend the conference in Bay City, but also Councilmember Parsons, George Vollman, himself, and hometown resident Ken Lawless from Clark Construction gave a presentation. He said that Portland was well represented and well received. He stated the most important thing about the meeting is the fact that you are given the opportunity to meet the people that make the decisions about what is going to happen with grant requests.

Councilmember Parsons stated the conference showed us how much work we still have to do get ourselves in a position to make bold strokes as some of the Cities have, and it also showed us how far we have already come. She said, “I think we are ready to take the next steps”.

Mr. Flanders stated he put up his own money to acquire a print by Mr. Brian McKelvey who painted a likeness of downtown Portland, and recommended that the City and the D.D.A. purchase a print for City Hall for \$450.00.

Parks and Recreation Director, Mary Scheurer informed Council that Portland received a Promoting Active Communities Award. She stated that she and the City Manager attended a workshop on November 8th that was put on by the Governor’s Physical Fitness Council, and the Michigan Department of Community Health. She stated that she filled out an assessment along with the Schools and applied for the award. She stated 45 communities applied for the 5 level award, and to date no one has received all 5 levels. She stated Portland received a 3 level award. She stated the award has a lot to do with the trail system, recreation programs, and a lot of planning they are doing with sidewalks in the community. She stated she has goals to work on to improve the community for next year’s award. Mayor Barnes stated a lot of the accomplishment of the award is attributed to the hard work that Ms. Scheurer has done over the years, and we appreciate her efforts. City Manager Dempsey stated the conference was a Building or Creating Livable Communities Conference, and Portland is well on its way in terms of those things. He said, “With Mary’s leadership we will get there and receive a higher award next year”.

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, approving Resolution 04-120 approving Fleis & Vandenbrink’s proposal to prepare design drawings and bid package for the proposed boardwalk behind the buildings on the west side of the 100 block of Kent Street, contingent upon the City obtaining necessary matching funds for the project.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Motion by Alderman, supported by Habegger, approving Resolution 04-121 approving pay request #8 to CB & I Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$63,992.49 for work completed on the Water Storage Tank Project.

Yeas: Alderman, Habegger, Parsons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Absent

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, approving Resolution 04-122 approving issuance of a Transient Trader Permit for T.A.P. Enterprise’s Tool Sale at the American Legion on December 16, 2004.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, to approve the consent agenda, which includes the minutes of the November 1, 2004 meeting, approval of payroll in the amount of \$66,779.68; and purchase orders to Cook Brothers for \$13,345.00 for electrical trenching and repair near the KC Hall on Maynard Rd and on Friend Rd., to Reed City Power for \$13,779.46 14,000 ft. of wire, to T & R Electric for \$17, 515.00 for transformers for spring projects, and also to Reed City Power for \$26,850.35 for wire.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

City Manager Dempsey updated Council on the new water tower project. He stated he has talked to Paul Galdes and Don DeVries from Fleis & Vandenbrink regarding making a recommendation for liquidated damages. A portion of the work delays this summer was not due to the contractor.

The utilities department has extracted a list that will be used by Granger's for refuse service. All current Granger customers are urged to pay their current bills, and credits will be given for overpayments. He stated we are expecting to offer the new refuse service beginning in January.

City Manager Dempsey stated he would like to submit a proposal to the Michigan State University Planning Class to do an Asset and Management Analysis and Assessment for the City of Portland's streets and sidewalks. He said they will make a recommendation for a Sidewalk and Street Master Plan for repair and replacement. He stated there may be cost associated with the project up to \$2,500.00.

Mayor Barnes stated he attended the Library open house, and stated it is a wonderful project.

Councilmember Parsons stated the Rivertrail this time of year is beautiful, especially with the deer playing tag with the Rivertrail Patrol.

Mayor Barnes reminded residents that the Holiday Fest begins Friday, November 19th. Please check local paper and flyers for a schedule of times and events.

City Manager Dempsey answered a question regarding the leaf machine blowing leaves out the back of the truck. He stated some of the crushed and dried leaves will blow out the back of the machine. He stated we are able to keep up with the leaves this year, because we purchased a used leaf machine from Alma. He also stated to date we have picked up 114 loads of leaves, and will continue to pick up leaves to the end of the month.

Mr. Lee Starks a 33-year resident of the City of Portland stated he purchased some land that adjoins City property near the Hydro on Lyons Rd. Mr. Starks stated the City holds an easement for a portion of the property, which he is buying. Mr. Starks asked Council to consider purchasing the property because he is liable for the property. He stated it would be beneficial for the City to own, because if the City stops using the property as a park, the easement is rescinded. He also stated the City pavilion and the fence is actually on his property, and they will be paying property taxes on the easement. He would like that to change.

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, to adjourn to Executive Session to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Adjourned to Executive Session at 7:46 P.M.

Executive Session ran from 7:48 P.M. to 8:25 P.M.

Motion by Alderman, supported by Parsons, to adjourn the regular meeting.

Yeas: Alderman, Parsons, Habegger, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Devlin

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Yvonne M. Bailey, City Clerk