

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller

Absent: Council Member Sheehan

Guests: Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink; Sara Smith, Michelle VanSlambrouck of Portland Backpacks for Bellies; Portland Community Food Bank President, Rich Schneider; Portland Community Fund Vice President, Sandra Olson, and Treasurer, Suzanne Maystead; Tim Fuller; Kathy Parsons

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.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to excuse the absence of Council Member Sheehan.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Under Public Comment, Michelle VanSlambrouck of Portland Backpacks for Bellies presented information on the activities of the local non-profit organizations and how they can be assisted.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman noted that Splash Pad hours have been extended past Labor Day to Sunday, September 11, 2022 as the weather is still warm.

City Manager Gorman noted there are Department of Treasury rules that prohibit the City from making financial contributions to local non-profits. The city fully supports the non-profit organizations in the community and does what it can to support them.

Under Presentations, Jon Moxey and Joe Benjamin of Fleis & VandenBrink provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. Mr. Moxey noted the final three bids were received for items on the project so now they can move forward with evaluating the cost of the project. It has been a challenging process with project costs coming in significantly higher than estimated.

Mr. Benjamin stated that project bids on the trade contracts alone have come in at a total project cost of \$18.6 million which is much higher than the previously estimated total project cost of around \$10 million. Rapid inflation and supply chain issues are the major contributing factors in the higher costs. Fleis & VandenBrink will be evaluating parts of the project totaling approximately \$4.5 million that can be eliminated from the project. The bond closing of \$13 million will take place on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

There was discussion.

Mr. Benjamin provided additional information on the original scope of the project and noted that work on the collection system, which includes the planned river crossing, is likely what will be deferred to a later date.

There was continued discussion regarding how the size and scope of the project might be changed without changing the functionality of the necessary repairs.

Mr. Moxey stated they continue to work with property owners on the easements for the Kent Street Improvement Project. Given the amount of preliminary work, construction is likely to take place in 2024 although they are pushing for construction in 2023.

Under New Business, the City Council considered Resolution 22-68 to approve a Biosolids Management Services Agreement with NutriGro Environmental Solutions, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-68 approving, authorizing, and directing the Mayor to sign a Biosolids Management Services Agreement with NutriGro Environmental Solutions, Inc.

Yeas: Johnston, Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-69 to recommend approval of the application from Opera Block Hospitality Group, Inc. to transfer ownership and location of a Class C Liquor License from 128 Kent St. to 118 ½ Kent St. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission requires a Resolution of Local Government Approval to be included in all completed license applications prior to review and approval.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 22-69 to recommend approval of the application from Opera Block Hospitality Group, Inc. to transfer ownership and location of a Class C Liquor License.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-70 to approve a proposal from Severance Electric Company, Inc. for directional boring work for the Electric Department in the amount of \$127,167.50. This work will continue the process of undergrounding the remaining overhead electric lines and will further enhance the reliability of electric service to the electric customers.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-70 approving a proposal from Severance Electric Company, Inc. for directional boring work for the Electric Department.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-71 to approve the addition of electric rates for LED Security Lighting in the current Electric Rate Schedule. Any new installation or replacement of security lights will be with LED lighting.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 22-71 approving the addition of electric rates for LED Security Lighting.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-72 to approve payment to F&V Construction in the amount of \$167,625.00 for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 22-72 approving payment to F&V Construction for work performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 22-73 to approve an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) in the amount of \$91,873.60 to meet a portion of the future load requirements for 2024.

Motion by Johnston, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve Resolution 22-73 approving an energy purchase through the Michigan Public Power Agency.

Yeas: Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting on August 15, 2022, payment of invoices in the amount of \$375,858.08 and payroll in the amount of \$267,055.19 for a total of \$642,913.27. Purchase orders to Spartan Commercial Roofing, LLC in the amount of \$9,000.00 for roof repairs at City Hall and to Bandit Industries in the amount of \$43,070.00 for a 12XP Brush Chipper were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted the Friends of the Red Mill held the annual Community Days event at the Red Mill on Saturday, August 27, 2022. It was another great event. City Manager Gorman further stated his appreciation for all of the hard work that went into the event.

City Manager Gorman extended condolences to City employees Ryan and Scott Honsowitz on the sudden passing of their mother Jane Honsowitz.

Under Council Comments, Council Member Fitzsimmons stated that he is glad to approve the purchase of the new wood chipper.

Mayor Barnes stated it is a constant balancing act for the City to provide the necessary services to the residents of the community without extending more costs than necessary. When major infrastructure projects are put off it can lead to bad situations as evidenced by the current water crisis in Mississippi.

Mayor Barnes noted the Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk was held yesterday and was attended by many.

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

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Barnes

Nays: None

Absent: Sheehan

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

James E. Barnes, Mayor

---

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk