

The City of Portland
City Council
May 20, 2024
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 20, 2024. Roll was called and present were members Michele Brewster, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, and Kent McClung. Also, present was Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, Rob Weaver (WPGW) and Ray Cooney (CR).
Absent: Mike Aker and Matt Goldsworthy

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from May 6, 2024

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from the May 6, 2024 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2024-8; Amending Chapter 30; Section 30.34 – Contempt and Disorderly Conduct in Public meetings

Motion by May, seconded by Golden to pass ordinance 2024-8 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye. The second reading is scheduled for June 17th. There was no public comment.
This ordinance protects public meetings from being disrupted due to inappropriate public behavior.

Ordinance 2024-9; Amending Chapter 51.16; Water Deposit

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to pass ordinance 2028-9 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye. The second reading is scheduled for June 17th. There was no public comment.
This ordinance increases the water deposit from \$100 to \$150 for all new customers. This ordinance will not affect current customers that have a deposit on file.

Dustin Mock, Police Chief; Request for additional funds (\$9,000) to update Police Department SOPs, Rules, Regulations and Policies

Chief Mock presented a proposal from Charles Braun (Attorney at Law) to update police department documents. He stated that this process would take approximately 3-6 months. May requested a conversation with the City Attorney to see if he could make all of the updates. Kent noted that he would also like to see if this could be done by Wes. This item was tabled and will be revisited at the next meeting.

Kimbra Reynolds, JC Drug Prevention Coalition; Information regarding the new Recovery Housing in Jay County

Kimbra gave a power point presentation about the recovery home. The home at 422 West Votaw Street was donated by Jay County Hospital Board of Directors. The home will take about 18 months to become operational. The residents will be vetted, have a structured schedule, linkage to services and employers. They will also have a safe and healthy environment for a successful recovery.

Ron May, Discussion of grocery store and also Spruce Alley

1. Ron noted that he has talked to an individual that is interested in donating \$100,000 to help bring a grocery store to Portland. He asked where the funds would come from for the city to provide an incentive package for a grocery store. Lori noted that Edit dollars could be available. This request would need to go through Travis Richards, JCDC Director and through the Edit Advisory Board. The final approval would be voted on by city council.

2. Ron thanked Chad Bricker for cleaning up the lot at the auction house. He noted that there is still an issue with the alley being blocked off with their delivery truck. Chad noted that he thought the alley had been vacated and that he owned it. Mayor Westlake noted that he talked to the auditor's office and the alley that was vacated is actually under part of the auction house building. Spruce Alley is owned by the city and has not been vacated. This is the alley that is directly south of the auction house. This is the alley that Chad Bricker uses to load and unload merchandise. Mayor Westlake noted that a time limit needs to be established for loading and unloading; perhaps 24 hours. Ashley noted that the time limit needs to be consistent with other loading areas in town. Chad Bricker asked that moving forward, there is open communication about the alley. He didn't know that there was an issue until after the last city council meeting.

Council Comments

None

Mayor's Report

He would like the council to consider adding stop signs to the following locations:

1. Middle and Water Street (He has talked to Norfolk & Southern and they have agreed to this sign on their property)
2. Park and Meadow Lane
3. Park and Race Street
4. Race and Pleasant
5. Arch and Pleasant
6. Water Street and Blaine Pike

Council members will take a look at these locations, possibly get accident reports from these locations and review the requests.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED ON 6/3/2024

Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer