

The City of Portland
City Council
July 1, 2024

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, July 1, 2024. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ron May, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker, Michele Brewster, and Kent McClung. Also, present were Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, Rob Weaver (WPGW) and Ray Cooney (CR).

Pledge of Allegiance

Arts Place, Carolyn Carducci – Request for sponsorship for 2025 Concert Series

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the pledge of \$15,000 for the 2025 concert series. This sponsorship will be paid early 2025. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Portland Eagles, Sherry Vore – Request for alley closure

The Portland Eagles will be hosting a membership drive and outdoor celebration on Saturday, September 7th. They requested that the alley directly behind the Eagles (north and south) be closed from 11am – 6pm. Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the request. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Jim Wasson, Citizen’s complaint regarding sewage bill

Mr. Wasson presented his sewage bill and noted that he feels that it is unfair to pay sewage on water that is used for watering his lawn and plants. Lori explained that the summer sprinkling program is for the months of June, July and August. Those months, excess water usage will be calculated on an average from the previous months of December, January and February. Mr. Wasson thanked the council for an explanation of his sewage bill. No action was taken.

Approval of City Council minutes from June 17, 2024

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the City Council minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by Golden, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve two payroll dockets; June 8 for \$156,411.41 and June 22 for \$183,625.85. General, Water and Sewage claims 111384-111750 totaled \$1,046,888.20. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ordinance 2024-10; Adding 4-way stop to Water and Middle Street; Second reading

After a short discussion roll call vote was taken. Aker, Golden and McClung voted aye. May, Goldsworthy, Brewster and Hilfiker voted nay. Motion did not pass.

Ordinance 2024-11; Exception to allow sales of Alcohol in all parks within the City of Portland

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by McClung to approve Ordinance 2024-11 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

This ordinance will set the parameters for obtaining a permit to sell alcohol for events on public property within the City of Portland Parks. Second reading is scheduled for July 15th.

Ordinance 2024-12; Amending Employee Handbook – Adding Sick Leave Benefit Donation Policy

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2024-12 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Motion by Golden, seconded by Goldsworthy to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2024-12 on the same night. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2024-12 on the second reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Travis Richards, Joyce Dayton PP Tax Abatement

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve this personal property tax abatement.

Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Investment: \$220,333

1 year savings: \$2,644

Travis Richards, Annual Tax Abatement Compliance Forms

Travis reported that the Tax Abatement Committee met and approved all compliance forms.

There were 26 abatements and 11 different companies with active abatements. Travis recommended that the council approve all tax abatement compliance forms. Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve all 2024 Tax Abatement Compliance forms. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Council Comments

Michele – Requested an update on the downtown traffic lights. Lori noted that INDOT has the traffic light replacement scheduled for mid-August.

Ron – Requested that the city council budget, in 2025, to finish the Blaine Pike path up to Water Street.

Ashley – Asked if there is a policy or procedure for citizens to use the electricity and sell food in the area of the basketball courts by the Jr. League Ball Diamonds. Brian Ison, Park Board President, was present at the meeting and noted that there is not policy for this. He noted that selling food would be monitored by the Health Department.

Mayor's Report

●No report

Clerk Treasurer noted the following:

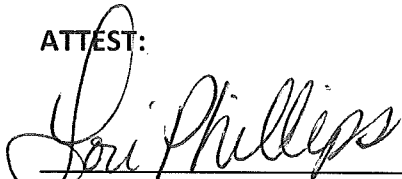
1. CCMG Crack sealing will begin the week of July 8th.

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant – EQ Basin pre-construction meeting in scheduled for July 3rd. Construction is scheduled to start June 20. This is a 15-month project.
3. Wastewater Treatment – Wet Weather Pump Station pre-construction meeting is scheduled for July 11.
4. Microphones and other items are still on backorder. Once those are received, DBS will start installing the equipment for live transmission.
5. INDOT’s Meridian Street project – Construction will stop on Wednesday, July 3rd and will resume on Monday, July 8th. Use caution while downtown for the parade. At most intersections, there are bolts and metal structures sticking out of the ground. Orange cones have been placed over these objects. Please do NOT remove.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by May to adjourn.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer



Jeff Westlake, Mayor