

The City of Portland  
City Council  
September 3, 2024

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 3, 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 was Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips and Ray Cooney (CR).

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Mallory Stevenson; The Advocacy Center – Request for funds**

At the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mallory presented to the council how the Advocacy Center is structured and the service that they provide to child abuse victims. Motion by May, seconded by McClung to approve a sponsorship of \$9,000 to the center. Roll call vote. Hilfiker abstained as she sets on the Advocacy board. All others voted aye.

### **Randy Geesaman – Taxpayer concerns**

Former Mayor Geesaman addressed the council with some budget items for them to consider. He noted the following:

Annual cost of payroll, insurance and work comp plans. He also urged the council and mayor to pay close attention to the bills that our state legislators bring to the floor. Some of the proposed bills could have a negative effect on local government. Other topics that he suggested the council and mayor familiarize themselves with are: Portland's assessed valuation, tax appeals, capital improvement projects, and additional requests outside a department's budget.

### **Approval of City Council minutes from August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the City Council minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

### **Claims Docket**

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Hilfiker to approve two payroll dockets; August 3 for \$160,226.36 and August 17 for \$149,918.09. General, Water and Sewage claims 112115-112448 totaled \$1,215,113.45. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

### **Ordinance 2024-14; 2025 Salary Ordinance – Second reading**

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by May to approve Ordinance 2024-14 on the second reading. Roll call vote. May voted nay. All others voted aye.

The 2025 payroll ordinance includes: 6% increase for regular full-time employees

8% increase for Mayor, Clerk Treasurer, and Superintendents

\$100/ year of service for all full-time employees; excluding Mayor and Clerk Treasurer

**Public Hearing – 2025 Budget**

Notice to Tax Payers for proposed budget is \$10,608,778 with a combined tax rate of \$1.9704. \$8,723,778 is DLGF reviewed funds plus \$1,885,000 in home rule funds. There were no questions or comments from the council or public. 2025 Budget adoption is scheduled for October 7, 2024.

**Council Comments**

Ashley-

1. Encouraged all city council members and the mayor to work together for the betterment of the community.
2. Suggested that the ordinances be followed; example trash collection and code enforcement.

Kent-

1. Was thankful for the crowd that the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Show brought to the community. Noted that the weather was perfect this year and that the service organizations and businesses in town benefited from this.

Dave-

1. Requested updates from the mayor on the following: Blaine Pike, Meridian Street INDOT repaving project, live feed and fiber optics.

Jeff noted the following:

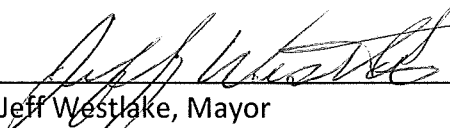
- Blaine Pike – Still waiting on a change order to be submitted also waiting for the contractor to correct some of the curb ramps.
- Meridian Street – Heavy patching will start on South Meridian Street. The full project is scheduled to be finished by October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Live Feed – DBS plans to have all of the equipment installed in September.
- Fiber Optics – Utilities One should have the line completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor's Report**

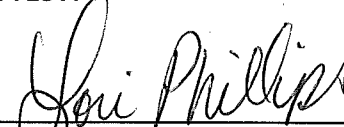
- No additional updates.

**Adjournment** Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:23 pm.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jeff Westlake, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer