

The City of Portland  
City Council  
October 7, 2024

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, October 7, 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 Rob Weaver (WPGW).

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Trick-or-Treat**

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Aker to approve Trick-or-Treat hours for Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5pm – 7:30 pm. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Kip Vanskyock, American Legion – Street closure request**

A request was made to close Ship Street from West Main to West Walnut and West Walnut Street from Ship to Commerce on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm. The closure is for a kid's trunk or treat, car show and a fund raiser due to tornado damages at the American Legion. Motion by May and seconded by Golden to approve the request. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Jenny Wagner, Jay County Library and Farm Bureau – Street closure request**

A request was made to close Ship Street from West Arch to West Main on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm – 7:30pm. The request is for a "Fall into Fun" festival for kids. They will have inflatables and kids' games. Motion by McClung, seconded by May to approve the request. Roll call voted. All voted aye.

**Approval of City Council minutes from September 16, 2024**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the minutes from September 16<sup>th</sup> as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Claims Docket**

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve three payroll dockets; August 31 for \$136,028.58, September 14 for \$149,824.91 and September 28 for \$134,693.23. General, Water and Sewage claims 112451-112810 totaled \$1,534,531.61. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Ordinance 2024-16; 2025 Budget – Second reading and adoption**

Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to approve Ordinance 2024-16 on the second reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Ordinance 2024-17; Amending Chapter 34 - Finance and Revenue – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

This ordinance allows budget transfers to be made (within like categories) by the Clerk Treasurer. Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2024-17 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Ordinance 2024-18; Amending Chapter 32.052 – Progressive Discipline – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

This ordinance corrects a typo in the original ordinance. The original ordinance stated that an employee being relieved from their work duty due to a discipline issue WILL be paid for their suspended days. This ordinance states that the employee will NOT be paid. Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2024-18 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Development Agreement – Chad Fifer and Fifer Properties, LLC**

Terms of this agreement include: \$309,372 EDIT loan to Fifer Properties, 3 years no payments due, the next 5 years he will repay only 25% of the loan if all of the development agreement terms are met. Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to approve sending the agreement to the Board of Public Works and Safety for their approval. Roll call vote. May and Aker voted nay. All others voted aye.

**Travi Richards, JCDC; Pioneer Equipment PP Tax Abatement**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the PP Tax Abatement for Pioneer Equipment. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Investment: \$2,000,000

Period of abatement: 3 years

Savings over 3 years: \$51,208

**Mayor Vehicle – Additional Appropriation request**

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Aker to approve up to \$25,000 for Mayor Westlake to purchase a vehicle for the City of Portland's Mayor. Quotes will be obtained and will be presented to the BOW for approval. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Council Comments**

Matt- Thank you to all of the city departments that helps during the tornado.

Mike- Thankful for the Fire Department, Street Department and Police Department for their door-to-door searches to check on Portland residents.

Ron- 1. Questioned how a migrant could hit his rental property and nobody in the car took ownership of driving the car so nobody was held accountable for the damages.

2. Noted the ongoing issue with Keith Osterholt's RV business. Mayor Westlake noted that there are still people living/ staying in the RV's parked on the lot in front of Tractor Supply. Mayor Westlake also noted that the RV's have damaged the concrete in this parking lot.

Dave – 1. Cautioned all council members of racially profiling a certain group of people when speaking during council comments, etc.

2. Thanked the first responders for their service during the recent tornado.

Ashley- 1. Asked the Police Department to patrol Hudson Park more frequently. There have been reports of people camping in the nature trails.

2. Noted that this Thursday the Wheel & Spoke Event Center will be hosting Ladies Night Out starting at 6pm.

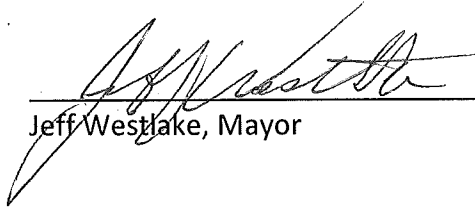
Kent- Thank you to our first responders and to Rob Weaver for announcing radio updates when there were no warnings coming from the National Weather Service.

**Mayor's Report**

1. Noted the successful Matt Aker Memorial Blood Drive last Saturday
2. Swap Meet at the Jay County Fairgrounds this coming weekend
3. Thanked all of the departments for their service during the recent tornado
4. Introduced JCHS students

**Adjournment** Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:36 pm.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Westlake, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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