

The City of Portland
City Council
September 16, 2024
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, September 16, 2024. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy, Ron May, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, and Dave Golden. Also, present was Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, Wes Schemenaur, and Brad Dues. Absent: Michele Brewster

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from September 3rd and September 9th, 2024

Motion by Aker, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the City Council minutes from the September 3rd and September 9th meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Brad Dues, Waste Water Superintendent – Payroll request

Brad requested that one of his Sewer Maintenance employee's pay be increased to Maintenance Foreman pay. He noted that with the plant expansion of the EQ Basin and the Wet Weather Pump Station, that this request is justified. He also noted that this employee works side by side with the Maintenance Foreman. The increase would be an additional \$1.75 per hour.

Lori noted that the plant runs now with 1 Maintenance Foreman. She cautioned adding positions or different job titles as it would need to carry over to the other departments as well. She noted that the plant expansion will be done by the contractors not our employees. Brad asked that the council consider increasing the pay of the one Sewer Maintenance employee or adding an additional employee with the title Maintenance Foreman. No action was taken by the council.

Ed Curtin – Presented the Downtown Economic Development Plan for the TIF District

The downtown plan calls to expand the TIF area around the former Hood building. The downstairs of the building will remain commercial development while the upper levels will be renovated into housing. McClung questioned why this area is being added to the TIF District. Ed noted that it will make the development of this area easier because the rules are more flexible when the area to be developed is within the TIF district.

Ed Curtin – Resolution 2024-6; Declaratory resolution to establish a new TIF area

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve resolution 2024-6 incorporating the area around the former Hood building into the TIF District. May voted nay. All others present voted aye.

Travis Richards, Personal Property Tax Abatement for Pioneer Equipment

Travis presented an abatement request with an investment amount of \$2,000,000. The equipment to be added includes an Urban Sawmill sorter, recycler pallet machines and forklifts. This abatement qualifies for a 3-year abatement. Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to send the tax abatement to the Tax Abatement Board for review. All present voted aye.

Travis Richards, Executive Director of JCDC – Request for annual funding of \$50,000

A request was made to release the City of Portland's pledge of \$50,000 for 2024. It was noted that the funds have not been released because JCDC currently does not have a contract with the County. Travis noted the issues with the County Commissioners and reasons for not having a signed contract. McClung noted that JCDC has faithfully worked in 2024 without a contract and wants them to get paid for their services. Golden

expressed his concerns with the lack of a signed contract with the commissioners. May questioned if the City or County should have a contract with JCDC in order to release the funds. Wes noted that the statute requires a contract for their services. He also noted that the City needs to have a separate contract with JCDC for the services that they provide directly to the City of Portland. Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to release the \$50,000 pledge to JCDC pending a signed contract with JCDC and the Board of Public Works and Safety. McClung also requested that no changes as to the number of board members and that the contract mirrors the services that they are currently providing to the City of Portland. All present voted aye.

Council Comments

Ron-

1. Has a Code Enforcement Officer been hired yet. Mayor Westlake noted that no applications have been received at this point, but the officers are enforcing the ordinances.
2. Questioned why city employees are not permitted to come to council members with concerns. Wes noted that personnel matters should be directed to the BOW. He and Kent noted that the day-to-day operations of the city are the responsibility of the mayor.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report at this time.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer