

The City of Portland  
City Council  
November 18, 2024  
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, November 18, 2024. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy, Ron May, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker, and Michele Brewster. Also, present was Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, and Wes Schemenaur.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of City Council minutes from November 4, 2024**

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the City Council minutes from the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

### **Jodi Hayes, JCDC – Joyce Dayton Personal Property Tax Abatement**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the personal property tax abatement. The abatement is for purchased manufacturing equipment. No new jobs will be created under this abatement. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Investment: \$229,000

Savings: \$2,748

Years of abatement: 1

### **Ordinance 2024-19; Amending Chapter 50 – Waiver of Sewer fees – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

This ordinance addresses that under certain limited circumstances it may be necessary to waive the monthly charges for a certain period of time. Golden suggested to make this ordinance retroactive to September 1, 2024. Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to make this amendment to the proposed ordinance. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

### **Ordinance 2024-19; Amending Chapter 50 – Waiver of Sewer fees – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with amendment**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve amended Ordinance 2024-19 on the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

### **Council Comments**

Ron-

1. Asked why outside sewer customers sewage rates are so high. It was noted that outside customers are a flat rate based on the revenue that needs to be generated to support bonds and operating costs.
2. Asked about trash pick-up for sewer customers on Nan-del Lane. It was noted that trash is not picked up out of city limits. Also, that inside city limit customers pay an additional fee each month for this service.
3. Asked if the Blaine Pike path could be extended to come closer to the RR tracks. Mayor Westlake noted that this is a possibility after the project has been closed out.
4. Asked when a Code Enforcement Officer will be hired. Mayor Westlake noted that applications are being accepted at this time.
5. Asked about the possibility of painting the railing on the new bridge east of town (where the blue steel truss bridge was located). Mayor Westlake noted that he has contacted INDOT Bridge Division and has started the conversation. He will have more information at a later date.
6. Asked what the process is and whose responsibility it is to take down blighted homes in town. Wes explained the process.

7. Noted the President elect's commitment to the economy and border security. He asked what can be done to support the immigration issue in Portland. Mayor Westlake just noted that changes may come later, but at this point it is out of local control.

Kent- Noted the progress on Meridian Street paving and bump outs.

Dave- Questioned if the city has any unspent ARPA funds. It was noted that all ARPA funds were used on the Meridian Street drainage project.

Ashley- Noted that she has received many complaints on the loss of parking

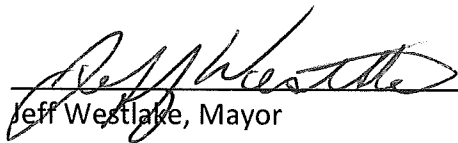
**Mayor's Report**

**High School students were introduced**

**Adjournment** Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jeff Westlake, Mayor

  
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Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer