

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

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

Absent: Michele Brewster

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of City Council minutes from December 2, 2024**

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the City Council minutes from the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Resolution 2024-7 – Year End Additional Appropriations**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the additional appropriation for year end. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Mike Weitzel, Fire Chief – Request to remove number of training hours from SOP's**

The request was made to remove the required percentage of training hours from section 13I of the SOP's. It was also requested to remove Section 36A from the SOP's. The requested changes are attached to the minutes. Motion by May, seconded by Golden to approve removing/revising these two (2) sections. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Brian Ison, Park Board President – Presented preliminary plans for a park at 201 West Main Street**

Plans were presented to the Park Board last week. The Park Board gave their blessing to move forward with seeking grants and other funding opportunities. The plans presented to the council included a concrete area with pavers, planters, corn hole, seating area, fire pit, shade area all surrounded by an open fence. The plans also call for a gravel area for food trailers. Brian noted that other ideas for the park include a restroom. He noted that this would be nice for downtown events. He asked the council for their blessing to move forward with seeking grant funding and park planning. All council members present noted that they are in favor of the Park Board moving forward with this project.

### **Discussion to release 2025 JCDC Annual Pledge**

Dave noted that he is in favor of releasing 2025 funds to JCDC at this time. He noted that this would help in hiring an Executive Director. At the last meeting it was discussed that half of the pledge be released now and the other half in June of 2025. Mayor Westlake noted that he wants to see more accountability and transparency. He noted that he wants to see all entities work together. No action was taken on this matter.

**Donation to the Scouts**

Ron May made a \$100 donation to the Scouts due to missing the last council meeting. Gary Maitlen gave a brief history and highlights of the Scout and their facility.

**Council Comments**

Matt – Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Looking forward to working together and accomplishing good things in 2025!

Mike – Has received complaints on how rough the road is on Ship Street between Walnut and High.

Ron – Merry Christmas to all!

Dave – Would like for the discussion of JCDC to be back on the agenda for the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ashley – Noted all of the beautiful decorations around town.

Kent – Noted that he was recently in Muncie and they have also constructed a lot of the bump-outs and lane restrictions. Also, wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mayor's Report**


Noted that this Wednesday several INDOT officials will be in town to discuss several matters: such as, downtown parking restrictions, lighting for the arch bridge, and painting of the bridge on 26 east of town.

**Adjournment** Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jeff Westlake, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer