

The City of Portland
City Council
January 21, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Michele Brewster, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, and Kent McClung. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips
Present via Zoom: Dave Golden

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from January 6, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from the January 6, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Jodi Hayes, JCDC – Joyce Dayton PP Tax Abatement

Jodi presented a 1-year abatement for manufacturing equipment. Motion by McClung, seconded by Aker to approve sending the request to the Tax Abatement Board. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Citizen, Keni Lehman – Concerns for lack of mental health resources in Jay County

Keni noted how difficult it is to find resources. She noted that in most cases the wait time for an appointment is 6 months. She stated that resources to assist with the cost of medications is not out there. Keni also reflected on how she was turned away from the Wayne Township Trustee's Office for assistance. Mayor Westlake and Council member Hilfiker offered resource options within Jay County. These resources will be compiled and added to the city website. Resource options discussed: Meridian Health Services, Bowen Center, and Center Stone.

Council Comments

Matt-

Requested that Mental Health options be added to the website.

Ron-

1. Suggested that Jay County residents (owning chickens) come to the next council meeting and discuss euthanizing their chickens until bird flu is no longer determined to be in Jay County.
2. Noted that President Trump has pledged to remove illegal immigrants from the United States. He asked if the Portland Police Department is prepared to handle this executive order. Mayor Westlake noted that he will be in Indianapolis tomorrow to discuss this very topic with other government officials.

3. Noted that he is not in favor of putting a park at the location of the former Bailey building sites (beside Greazy Pickle). He asked that each council member talk with their constituents about this topic.

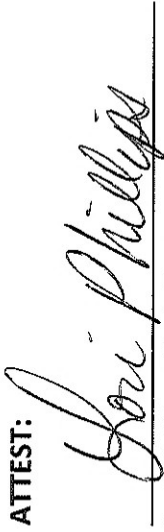
Mayor's Report

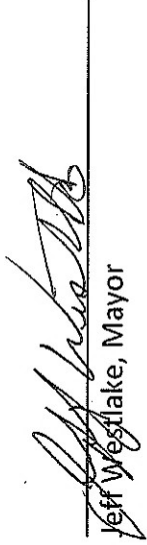
- February 8th – Peggy's Plunge
- February 16th – Portland Fire Department Annual Chili lunch

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by May to adjourn at 5:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer


Jeff Westlake, Mayor