

The City of Portland
City Council
March 3, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 3, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Michele Brewster, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, and Kent McClung. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, and Rob Weaver (WPGW).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from February 3, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve the City Council minutes from the February 3, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve two payroll dockets; February 1 for \$137,780.24 and February 15 for \$143,593.69. General, Water and Sewage claims 113964-114240 totaled \$2,488,846.47. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

2025 Fire Contracts

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Golden to approve the 2025 Fire protection contracts. There was a 3% increase from 2024. The 2025 fire contracts total \$99,136.42. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

\$2,352.10	Jefferson
\$10,276.15	Pike
\$15,772.92	Greene
\$70,735.25	Wayne

Aaron Loy, Jay County Fair Board – Request for funds

A funding request was made in the amount of \$6,500. The funds will cover the cost of the design and construction of this year's sunflower/ corn maze. Aaron noted the maze attracts 800-900 people each weekend. He also noted that the maze operates on a free-will donation basis. Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Hilfiker to approve \$2,500 from Council promotion fund and \$2,000 from Mayor promotion fund. Mayor agrees to the use of Mayor promotion funds. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Chuck Denney, Greazy Pickle - Street closure request

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve closing Main Street from Commerce to Ship from 9am to 9pm on June 14th. The Greazy Pickle will be hosting benefit events for Aaron Emerick / Alyssa Man. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

2024 Annual Financial Report has been submitted to DLGF

****NOTE**** Mental Health Resources have been added to the home page of the city's website. Click on the "Helpful Links" icon and this will take you to the list of resources. Thank you to Ashley Hilfiker for compiling these resources.

Council Comments

Matt - Regarding the noise ordinance – what refines a "religious" group? Wes noted that would be a difficult one to define.

Ron –

1. Recognized Mike Weitzel and Dustine Hilfiker for getting State Certified in Live Fire Training. This was an intense 5-week course with 39 burns in burn chambers.
2. Requested an update on parking in front of City Hall. Mayor Westlake noted that INDOT is working with city officials to regain parking spots at this location and a few others downtown.
3. Requested an update on the barricades that remain downtown. Mayor Westlake noted that city officials are working with INDOT on an acceptable design to make the drop offs safer. The options that have been proposed are additional flower pots (provided by INDOT) and hand rails.
4. Questioned if the city would be maintaining the walking path on Blaine Pike. He noted a recent incident when a resident plowed that path and caused minor damage to a homeowner's yard along the path. Mayor Westlake noted that that city does not maintain this path or the Hudson Park walking path.
****Note**** The city does not have the appropriate equipment for plowing a walking path. An enclosed, heated Kubota with a plow would be needed.
5. Requested an update from Mayor Westlake on how illegal immigration in Portland will be handled. Mayor Westlake noted that there is sensitive information that cannot be shared with the public at this time.

Kent –

1. SB-1 is back to the original verbiage.
2. Immigration discussion - Follow the law, follow the Constitution of the United States and avoid racially profiling individuals.

Ashley –

1. Requested from Wes what can be done when Mayor Westlake picks and chooses which ordinances are being enforced. Wes noted the separation of power. The Council makes the ordinances and Mayor, Police and Code Enforcement enforce the ordinances.
2. Asked that the council discuss the ordinance regarding solicitors. She would like to review the process to be approved as a door-to-door solicitor. Also, the possibility of notifying the public of such solicitors.

Dave –

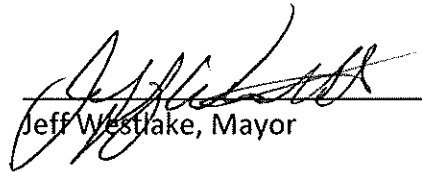
1. State representatives are hosting an event this Saturday @ 9am - Dunkirk Community Center to discuss SB-1.
2. Requested that Wes review at the noise ordinance. Wes noted that he will meet with the mayor and chief and report back to the council with some options.

Mayor's Report

- John Pace has been hired as the new Code Enforcement Officer. He will begin on March 10th.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:14 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer