

The City of Portland
City Council
March 17, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 17, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, and Kent McClung. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Absent: Michele Brewster

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from March 3, 2025

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

Gary Johnston, Arch Bridge Kroozers; Request for street closure – May 17th

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the street closure request from noon until 6pm – West Main Street from Ship to Commerce and from Water to Walnut Street. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-1; Amending Chapter 110 - Solicitation – 1st reading

Motion by McClung, seconded by May to table and amend Ordinance 2025-1 with a few changes. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Discussion: Amend to establish a time period that the permit would be valid; amend the fee and background check shall be performed by the ISP.

Discussion on Chapter 91 – Noise Ordinance

Motion by Golden, seconded by Aker to table this discussion. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Discussion:

Kent – Can't change the ordinance for exemptions

Dave – A decibel meter is around \$400. This would take the pressure off of the officers.

Muncie's ordinance for decibel meter is any noise over 83 decibels.

Mayor – Adolfo's has talked to the church group about the noise issue. The mayor wants to see if this will help resolve the noise issue. Also, he does not want to put this issue on the officers to enforce.

Matt – If there will be several exemptions from having a decibel meter, then what is the point to amend the ordinance and to purchase the decibel meter reader.

Wes – Even with the decibel meter, it would be hard to enforce with religious groups.

Council Comments

Mike –

Questioned the raised manholes by CVS And AutoZone. Mayor Westlake stated that these have turned in to INDOT. He noted that he will make an inquiry about this.

Ron –

1. Questioned getting a digital speed-reading sign at the entrance of Portland. Mayor Westlake will look into this.
2. Asked who cleans the street on downtown US 27. Mayor Westlake noted that INDOT is responsible for this, but that our Street Department “helps” out and occasionally cleans it. Lori noted that INDOT has contracted with the City of Portland for cleaning the roadway. Annually the City invoices INDOT for this service. The Street Department logs when the street cleaner sweeps and how much debris has been collected.
3. Asked about the grates on the path along Blaine Pike. Mayor noted that the Wastewater Department has tack welded the grates together.

Students were introduced

Mayor’s Report

- Jon Pace has been hired as Code Enforcement Officer. Jaylen Riddle is training him. He is part time and working 29 hours per week.

Just before a motion to adjourn, Mayor Westlake brought up the topic of amending the Police Lateral Transfer Policy. He was asked to add this topic to the agenda, but refused to do so. After much discussion, McClung noting that this was not on the agenda and would not be voted on. Goldsworthy requested to add this topic to the next agenda.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer