

The City of Portland
City Council
April 7, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, April 7, 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 were Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, and Rob Weaver (WPGW).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from March 17, 2025 and minutes from Executive session on April 1, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the City Council minutes from the March 17th and April 1, 2025 meetings as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by Golden, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve three payroll dockets; March 1 for \$139,283.80, March 15 for \$160,154.13 and March 29 for \$141,622.06. General, Water and Sewage claims 114242-114610 totaled \$2,088,402.74. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Jodi Hayes, JCDC – FCC PP and RE Tax Abatement

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve sending FCC PP and RE Tax Abatements to the Tax Abatement Board. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ed Curtain, Representative for the Redevelopment Commission – Requested approval to submit the 2024 RDC Annual Report

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Golden to approve for the Clerk Treasurer to submit the RDC annual report in Gateway. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-2; Request to vacate the alley south of Bollenbacher and Associates

Tonight, a public hearing and 1st reading was held for the proposed alley vacation. Attorney, Josh Adkinson, and Scott Bollenbacher of Bollenbacher & Associates made the request to vacate the alley. They want to construct an addition to the current building. Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2025-2. There were no public comments on the proposed vacation on the alley. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Jay Lodge 87 Masonic Lodge; Request for street closure – July 12th

Motion by May, second by Goldsworthy to approve the street closure request from 9am until 6pm. The closure is to celebrate 175 years of the organization. The celebration is open to the public. Closure: East Race Street from Meridian to First Alley. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Cara Cramer, Past Recovery Services; Request for street closure – June 21st

Motion by May, second by Brewster to approve the street closure request from 4pm until 7pm. The closure is in conjunction with a car show. They will have recovery resources available and various vendors. Closure: West Main Street from Meridian to Harrison Street. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Mike Weitzel, Main Street Group; Request for street closure – May 17th

Motion by May, second by Brewster to approve the street closure request from noon until 6pm. The closure for the "Festival on Main Street" event is in collaboration of the car show.

Closure: East Main Street from Meridian to Harrison. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Resolution 2025-1; Opposing any tax policy that impacts local government without replacement of revenue stream

Motion by May, seconded by Golden to approve Resolution 2025-1. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

This resolution will be sent to our state representatives asking that they vote no to SB1 in its current form.

The current amendments to SB1 include eliminating Business Personal Property tax within 10 years. The bill also calls for a significant shift in property taxes that are collected.

Ordinance 2025-1; 1st Reading amending Chapter 110 – Solicitation

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve Ordinance 2025-1 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

The amendments include: Establishes a fee, hours for solicitation, how long the permit is valid, requires an ISP background check and states that the applicant cannot have been convicted of a crime of violence, etc.

Chad Fifer, Fifer Properties – Quarterly report per the Development Agreement was submitted. No action taken

Discussion of Noise Ordinance

Adolfo Solis noted that at the request of Mayor Westlake, he attended the church at the Community Center. He only noticed a normal church with normal noise levels. He also noted that the noise outside the building in the middle of the service was at a normal level and was not excessive. He questioned if the "Rock Church" had a noise ordinance issue while their services were being held at the Community Center.

He cautioned the council in regards to amending the noise ordinance; noting other issues such as concerts at the Jay County Fairground.

No additional comments from council members

Police Lateral Transfer Policy

Jeff noted that he wants to pass this policy amendment for Jagg Nunez and also future Police Officers. He also noted that he wants to bring the Board of Public Works and Safety into the discussion of this policy.

Lori Phillips –

1. Noted that the intent of this policy is to recruit ACTIVE officers from other Police Departments to the Portland Police Department.
2. Noted that Jagg Nunez had an approximate 4-month gap between the Decatur Police Department and the Portland Police Department.
3. Asked Chief Mock if Jagg Nunez was working a job outside of law enforcement in the time between Decatur and Portland. Mock refused to answer the question. He noted that he would not discuss this without Jagg being present.

Dustin Mock –

1. Noted that council members needed to know their role as part of the legislative branch. He stated that council has control over the funds, but BOW has control over policies.

Council Comments

Mike – Asked about the manholes on Meridian Street. Mayor Westlake noted that INDOT will correct this issue before the US 27 paving project through downtown is completed.

Ron –

1. Asked for an update on Meridian Street paving project. Mayor noted that Lori participated in the walk thru today with INDOT and the contractor. A punch list of items that need to be corrected, finished and cleaned up was reviewed. The contractor will start the punch list on Monday, April 21st. They will have 5 – 10 days to complete the punch list.
2. Asked for an update on the stop signs at Walmart. Mayor noted that they will go back up next week along with the stop bars.
3. Noted the current tax rate and the possible implications of SB1. He noted that all departments need to cut back on their expenditures.

Dave –

1. Asked if a hand rail could be installed at the Hood building.
2. Asked to start the process to vacate the alley beside the Democrat Headquarter building. This alley has never been an all the way through alley. Randy Geesaman spoke and noted that the renter in the apartment at the Democrat Headquarters uses the alley to park their vehicle.

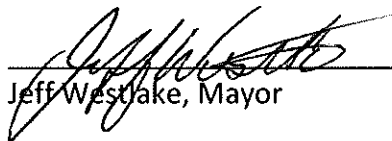
Mayor's Report

- Chicago Pizza will open in May
- Good will open by the end of the month
- Haynes Park – playground for younger kids has been installed on the east side of the park
- Spring clean-up is this week on normal trash collection day

Adjournment Motion by May, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer