

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from April 7, 2025

Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the City Council minutes from the April 7, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Jodi Hayes, JCDC – FCC PP Tax Abatement

Jodi presented a 3-year abatement for manufacturing equipment. Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the abatement. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Investment: \$1,329,400

Savings: \$34,598

Years: 2027-2029

Jodi Hayes, JCDC – FCC RE Tax Abatement

Jodi presented a 3-year abatement for HVAC units, concrete driveway and IT room fire barrier. Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the abatement. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Investment: \$321,000

Savings: \$18,324

Years: 2027-2029

Ordinance 2025-1; Amending Chapter 110 - Solicitation

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

Changes to this ordinance include: establishing a fee, hours of solicitation, length of permit, and ISP criminal history check.

Ordinance 2025-2; Alley vacation

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the alley vacation between 905 North Meridian Street and 915 North Meridian Street. This is the alley directly south of the Bollenbacher and Associates building. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Chad Aker, Jay County Commissioner, President – Request for funding for the 7th Street bridge replacement project (sidewalk on the bridge)

In October of 2023 the commissioners presented a rough estimate of the cost to add a sidewalk to the bridge. At that time, the council gave approval to move forward with this addition on the bridge. The project has been awarded and work will begin in June or July; with a timeframe of 120 day to completion. The amount requested from the city is \$26,962.50. These are all of the cost associated with the addition of the sidewalk to the bridge. Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the request. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Cliff Moser – Sewer issues at his residence (145 North Charles Street)

He addressed council with ongoing issues that occur during a 12–18-hour rain event. The manhole in front of his home backs up and human waste comes up from it. This is an issue that started during the Geesaman administration. Short term fixes have been implemented by the Wastewater Department, but a permanent fix has not been determined at this time. When a rain event occurs, he and his wife can't use any water or flush toilets until the water quits bubbling at the manhole. Matt Goldsworthy noted that he has witnessed this problem and that Cliff has been extremely patient in dealing with this issue. Cliff noted that he hired Laux Plumbing to help resolve this matter. He presented an invoice in the amount of \$335. Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by McClung to recommend to the BOW that the city reimburse Cliff for this invoice. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Mr. Moser asked that the city council consider this issue when it comes to the proposed 68-acre project. He is concerned that the lift stations and the sewage plant can't handle the added discharge from the additional users that will result from the 68-acre project.

Brentton Lewis – Request to make Votaw Street (Hwy 67) from Industrial Drive to Meridian Street a NO TRUCK route; due to the all-way stop at the Walmart entrance

Brentton Lewis did not show up to the council meeting. He did not withdraw his request to speak at this council meeting.

Council Comments

Dave-

1. Noted that the Jay Community Center did approve vacating the alley to the south of the Democrat Headquarters building. The request to vacate has been sent to the Portland Foundation for their approval.
2. Asked for an update on estimated revenue loss from SB1. Lori noted the following:
2026; 4.6% loss = \$210,080
2027; 6.1% loss = \$288,880
2028; 14.2% loss = \$704,940
3. Asked the mayor why the lateral transfer policy was not on the agenda. Mayor Westlake noted that he has reached out to other mayors for advice on this matter. He also intends to take this lateral transfer policy to the BOW for their approval.

Kent –

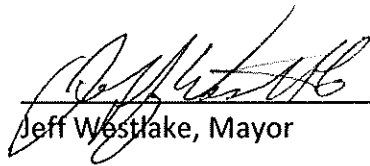
1. Noted that Mr. Brentton Lewis needs to contact INDOT with his concerns. INDOT governs state highways, not the city of Portland.

Mayor's Report

- Milling for street paving started today.

Adjournment Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer