

The City of Portland
City Council
May 19, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 19, 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, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Revised Agenda

Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the revised agenda. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Approval of City Council minutes from May 5, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from the May 5, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ceann Bales, JCDC; NAC Holdings LLC - RE Tax Abatement

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve to RE Tax Abatement for NAC Holdings LLC. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Investment: \$250,000

3 years savings: \$14,272

Years of the abatement: 2026-2028

Ordinance 2025-3; Ordinance to Recertify Council Districts

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2025-3 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

This ordinance certifies that the council does not wish to restructure the council districts.

Ordinance 2025-4; Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on Commercial Battery Storage Facilities

John Hemmelgarm addressed the council with the Advisory Plan Commission's favorable recommendation to approve this ordinance. They held a public hearing on May 1st.

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve Ordinance 2025-4 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Motion by Golden, seconded by May to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2025-4 on the same night. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2025-4 on the second reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-5; Ordinance Amending the 2025 payroll ordinance

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve Ordinance 2025-5 on the first reading. Roll call vote. Aker voted nay. All others voted aye.

The amendments included: Changing the hours / days worked for police and dispatch, added the positions of assistant pool manager and head lifeguard.

Speed bump request in the alley south of West Arch Street between Park and Charles

The request was to rebuild 3 speedbumps and add two additional speed bumps in this alley. Motion by May, seconded by Golden to approve the speed bump request. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Street closure request; Elks Lodge – June 7th

Motion by McClung, seconded by May to approve the street closure request for June 7th from 4 – 10 pm. The closure is for West High Street from alley east of the Elks to Commerce Street.

Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Mayor Westlake – Discussion of lateral Transfer Policy – Police Department

The mayor presented the city council and city attorney with a draft policy of a new lateral transfer policy for the police department. The draft gives the final authority for a transfer to the Chief of Police, Mayor and the Board of Public Works and Safety. This would eliminate the policy from the City of Portland Handbook, which is approved by the City Council.

Mayor Westlake had his personal attorney, Charles Braun, present to speak on behalf of the policy. He noted the shortage of officers all over the country and encouraged such a policy. It was noted that the city does already have a lateral transfer policy in place.

Council Comments

Ron - Questioned the need for an ordinance regarding electric bikes. Wes will look into creating an ordinance to address this matter.

Dave – Thanked Brandon Swoveland for constructing and installing the hand rail at the Commercial Review building.

Ashley – 1. Asked what would be done with the draft policy for the lateral transfer. Mayor Westlake noted that is it just for review at this point and that he will take it to the BOW for their review.

2. Asked Mayor Westlake where the city was with an updated agreement with the Jay County Humane Society. Mayor noted that he was waiting to hear back from them. Wes noted that Chief Mock has not relayed any revisions for the agreement to him.

Kent – 1. Noted that at the car show an INDOT sign blew over and struck a banner. Nobody was injured. Mayor noted that he would call INDOT to see when the signs will be removed.

Mayor's Report

1. Rocket's season opening is this weekend.
2. Banner dedication at Freedom Park is this week.
3. Noted the small vehicles and the stop lights will not trigger the stop lights turning green. The vehicles are not heavy enough to register the electronics within the circles.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. CCMG 2025-1; Bid opening was held May 7th. This paving is for Charles Street from Water to Votaw Street.
2. SB-1 Legislative session with Travis Holdman, JD Prescott and Matt Lehman has been rescheduled to June 26th at 6 pm in the commons area at the Jr/ Sr High School.
3. Budget dates; September 15th – Public hearing; October 6th – Budget Adoption. The deadline to submit our budget to DLGF is November 3rd.
4. Payroll ordinance; The 2026 payroll ordinance will need to be in place by the first meeting in August. As soon as revenue projections are available, work will begin on payroll recommendations.

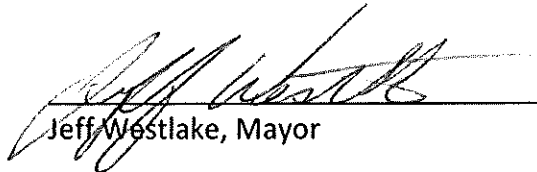
5. I'm having issues with getting agenda items to me before the cut-off time. Moving forward, when late items are submitted or withheld, that item will be placed on the next upcoming agenda. The exception would be if an emergency item needs to be presented.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer


Jeff Westlake, Mayor