

The City of Portland
City Council
June 16, 2025
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, June 16, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Mike Aker, Michele Brewster, Ron May, and Ashley Hilfiker. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Absent: Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy and Dave Golden

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from June 2, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from the June 2, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ceann Bales, JCDC; Annual Tax Abatement compliance

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve to the annual Tax Abatement compliance forms. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-6; Establishing Right of Way Use Provisions – 2nd reading

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Aker to approve Ordinance 2025-6 on the second reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

This ordinance establishes the procedures for road repair when a utility company cuts into city streets.

Ordinance 2025-7; Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on A Data Center Facility – 1st reading

John Hemmelgarn addressed the council with the Advisory Plan Commission's favorable recommendation to approve this ordinance. They held a public hearing on June 5th.

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Aker to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on the first reading. Roll call vote.

Brewster voted aye and May voted nay. Ordinance did not pass on the 1st reading.

Discussion on Establishing a Moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Storage Facilities

John Hemmelgarn addressed the council on the establishment of a moratorium on carbon sequestration storage facility. The Advisory Plan Commission did not give a favorable recommendation for establishing a moratorium. Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Aker to schedule a special meeting to discuss this matter. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-7; Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on a Data Center facility – 1st reading

John Hemmelgarn noted this ordinance permits data facilities within the jurisdiction of the City of Portland Plan Commission for a period of no longer than 1 year. This 1-year moratorium will allow time for the development of an ordinance establishing standards and regulations for such facilities.

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Aker to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on the first reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye. This ordinance did pass on the 1st reading.

Drug Coalition – Accept donation from Ron May

Ron May donated \$200 to Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

Council Comments

Mike – Optimist Annual Fishing Derby is this Saturday at Hudson Family Park. Registration starts at 8:00; fishing derby is 8:30 – 11:00. The event is free; prizes will be given away and lunch will be served at 11:00.

Ron – 1. Questioned the status of the Rollin J Lanes Development Agreement. Wes noted that the bowling alley is going up for sale and that at this point, we wait and see what happens.

2. Noted the Police Departments' continuous problems with recruiting employees. He questioned the possibility to have a central police dispatch and central officer officers' partnership. Mayor Westlake acknowledged the possibility.

Ashley – 1. Noted the speed of traffic on First Street (from the waterpark past the little league diamond) is excessive. Requested that a speed bump be placed in this area. Mayor Westlake noted that he will talk to Matt Shauver about placing a speed bump in this area.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. 7th Street Bridge project – Construction will begin on June 23rd. The bridge will be closed for approximately 120 days. Completion is expected around October 15th.
2. 2026 Payroll Ordinance will be introduced at the July 7th meeting. A 2% pay increase will be proposed.
3. Barnes & Thornburg SB-1 meeting ~ Takeaways from the meeting:
 - The 2026 LIT Public Safety is for Fire and EMS only. It is believed that this is an oversight in the bill and will be corrected (to include Police) in the next legislative session.
 - The city needs to consider other revenue replacement options; i.e. re-evaluate trash/ recycling fees, tap fees, implement a city LIT tax for 2028.

2026 = \$153,660 loss
2027 = \$307,250 loss
2028 = \$726,140 loss
4. Budget hearing dates:
 - September 15th – Public hearing
 - October 6th – Budget adoption
 - November 3rd – Deadline to submit budget to DLGF

Adjournment Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer