

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

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, July 7, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, Ron May and Michele Brewster. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Via ZOOM: Kent McClung (Joined late due to technical issues)

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from June 16, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from the June 16th, 2025 as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve two payroll dockets; June 7 for \$160,891.40 and June 21 for \$194,558.85. General, Water and Sewage claims \$1,561,873.27. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Jenny Wagner, Jay County Public Library; Street closure requests

Motion by May, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the two (2) street closure requests. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

July 10th – Community Hero Day 5-7pm (Closure 3-8pm)

July 31 – Back to School Bash & Pop-up Food Pantry 3-6 pm (closure noon – 7pm)

George McGinnis and Chad Aker, Jay County Solid Waste District; Recycling issue

County recycling Ordinance 2022-7 was presented by George. This ordinance outlines the recycling programs and the penalties for not following the ordinance. George noted on-going issues with residents' leaving items at un-maned recycling stations; such as, mattresses, construction material, metal and trash. These items cannot be recycled and it costs the Solid Waste District to dispose of these items. George asked for city police department patrol these areas, site and prosecute individuals for illegal dumping. Jeff asked if Sherriff Newton would share the video footage from the recycling trailers on their property. Jeff would like to "shame" those offenders on FB. Golden noted that he spoke with Sheriff Newton and he is willing to assist with this issue.

Chad asked if the city police department would patrol these areas and site those that are in violation of the ordinance. Jeff noted that the police department will assist with this matter.

George noted that all residents are permitted 2 free dumps per year at the landfill.

Matt Shauver suggested posting signs that the recycling area is "under surveillance and violators will be prosecuted".

Ceann Bales, JCDC; Pioneer Equipment Leasing – Personal Property Tax Abatement

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve sending the personal property tax abatement to the Tax Abatement Board. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Equipment: Automated production machines, forklifts, grinder loaders, trailers and software

Investment: \$3,500,000

Abatement: 3 years

Ceann Bales, JCDC – Quarterly update

Executive Director, Ceann Bales highlighted the following items going on in Jay County:

Unemployment rate

Business Retention & Expansion

Economic Development Initiatives

Economic Development Projects

Community Development Projects

Ordinance 2025-7; Moratorium on Data Center Facilities

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on the 2nd reading. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ordinance 2025-8; 2026 Payroll Ordinance – 1st reading

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2025-8 on the first reading.

Roll call vote. May voted nay. All others voted aye.

The 2026 payroll ordinance calls for a 2% increase for elected officials and all full-time employees.

Ordinance 2025-9; Amending Chapter 32 of Code of Ordinances regrading outside employment

This ordinance died for lack of motion.

Announcement: Public hearing for the Moratorium on Co2 Geological Carbon Sequestration will be Monday, July 21 at 6:15 following the regular council meeting.

Council Comments

Matt –

1. Bosted about the disc golf course at Hudson Park – free activity.
2. Was thanked by a citizen for Officer Rigby's assistance in a recent car wreck.
3. Thanked the Water and Street Department for the invitation to watch the demo for an asphalt sprayer and compactor.

Mike – Noted that the area on Western Avenue between High and Arch has been repaved and it looks great.

Ron –

1. Offered condolences to Jeff in the passing of his mother Zona Shoopman.

2. Requested more street lights along Blaine Pike. Matt Shauver, Street Department noted that the lights are owned by AEP.
3. Requested an Executive meeting related to personnel matters. Jeff and Wes noted that an Executive meeting would need to be called by the Council President. McClung will be back in the US later this week. He will meet with Mayor Westlake to discuss and decide on an executive meeting or not.

Dave – 1. Noted that the Jay County Fair was well attended.

2. Thanked Ceann Bales for the JCDC quarterly report and requested that their ½ half of pledged funds be release. Lori noted that the check is on the docket they approved tonight.

Ashley – Noted how nice the parade was.

Mayor's Report

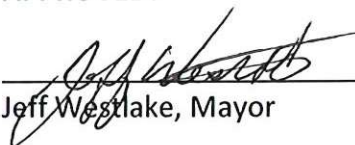
- 7th Street Bridge project is on-going
- Great attendance at the Jay County Fair
- Vintage Bike show is this week
- The confetti that was shot off during the July 4th parade is bio-degradable and will dissolve after the next rainfall
- Will work with INDOT on the "No turn on red" at the stop lights

Clerk Treasurer's Report

- September 15 – Budget hearing
- October 6 – Budget Adoption

Adjournment Motion by May, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer