

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council Minutes from July 7, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the City Council minutes from July 7th, 2025 as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Jay County Bridge Dinner Committee

Darlesia Lee from the bridge committee shared information about an event they are planning for September 25th. The group wants to host a community picnic on the green bridge. Ron May suggested that committee set a budget and come back to council with a request.

Randy Stephen, Ohio Valley – Concerns over Ordinance 2025-6

Last month the council approved this ordinance which requires an application and a fee for all road cuts in the city's right of way. Randy expressed the undue burden this would put on their customers. The council agreed to table this topic while the mayor schedules a meeting with Randy to resolve this matter. Wes will amend the ordinance with the mayor's proposed changes and bring it back to council.

Resolution 2025-4 – Additional Appropriations

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by McClung to approve Resolution 2025-4. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

\$35,000 Aviation Repairs & Maintenance

\$20,000 Pool Repairs & Maintenance

Ceann Bales, JCDC – Pioneer Leasing Personal Property Tax Abatement

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the personal property tax abatement for Pioneer Leasing. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Investment: \$3,500,000

Abatement: 3 years

Savings: \$91,087

Ordinance 2025-8; 2026 Payroll Ordinance – 2nd reading

Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to approve the 2026 payroll ordinance on the 2nd reading. Roll call vote. May voted nay. All others voted aye.

Council approved a 2% increase for all full-time and elected officials. Mayor Westlake again advocated for a 3% wage increase.

Council Comments

Ron

1. Why has a police car been parked at the waterpark all summer? Mayor – He requested that the car be placed there for security and the sense of police presence.

Ashley

1. Asked for the police department to start emailing their weekly stats. Mayor – He will let the police chief know this has been requested.
2. Asked the hours of the Code Enforcement Officer. Noted that she has had a lot of complaints on tall grass.

Mayor's Comments

1. Tractor and Engine show will be here soon. Let's get ready for the golf carts.
2. Attended a round table meeting with INDOT and he brought up all of the "no turn on red" at the intersections. INDOT noted that they would review the request to eliminate these "no turn on red" sites.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer



Jeff Westlake, Mayor