

The City of Portland
City Council – Public Hearing
July 21, 2025
6:15 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 6:15 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.

Public Hearing – Moratorium on Co2 Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage Facilities

It was noted that the Jay County Commissioners met at 4:00 today and decided to NOT place a moratorium on Co2 Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage Facilities.

Adam Homan gave an overview of the process and timeline for this project.

Anthony Muzzin and Matt Hemmingway with DTE Vantage (on behalf of Poet) spoke about the timeline, the technical and geological aspects of the project.

Chris Lutes (cattle farmer on CR 200 S) spoke in favor of the project.

Rodney Miles (resident on CR 300 S) spoke regarding his many questions about this project, but seemed to be open to the proposed project. He suggested that a monitoring well be placed at the base of the Tyson Road tower.

John Hemmelgarn noted that he has been against this project from the beginning. The Portland Plan Commission gave “no recommendation” on this matter. John recommended that a 3rd party geologist make a presentation and give their thoughts on the safety of this project. He stated that if a positive recommendation from the 3rd party was given, that he and Pati will work diligently to draft an ordinance to implement safety standards. He met with Poet and their geologists and recommended that Poet installs and monitors 5 wells on a 24/7 basis. At this point, Poet has agreed to this request.

Ron May has reached out to Purdue Extension and they have a geologist that is willing to speak with City Council on this topic.

Questions brought up by council members and addressed by Poet geologists:

Annual compliance filing

Risk of leaks and how to fix

End of operations and compliance monitoring

Risk of earthquakes

What is the percentage of residents within the footprint of this project are on-board

Safety concerns

Dave Golden noted that he is not in favor of placing a moratorium on Co2 Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage.

Ashley Hilfiker made a motion to send this back to the Plan Commission to get a 3rd party geologist recommendation. Kent McClung seconded this motion. Dave Golden voted nay. All others voted aye.

No other public comments were heard.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer



Jeff Westlake, Mayor