

The City of Portland  
City Council  
December 1, 2025  
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, December 1, 2025. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, Ron May, Kent McClung and Michele Brewster. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of City Council minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the City Council minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Claims Docket**

Motion by May, seconded by McClung to approve two payroll dockets; November 8 for \$135,620.30 and November 22 for \$144,957.21. General, Water and Sewage claim #116944-117216 in the amount of \$2,593,512.03. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Annual Nepotism and Conflict of Interest Disclosures are presented and signed**

**Barry Ritter, Ritter Strategic Services – Discussion on Central Dispatch**

He shared a power-point with the facts surrounding why consolidation is a positive move for the county and city. Mayor Westlake and council members shared their questions and thoughts on a consolidation of services. After much discussion the council asked how we move forward on this topic. Wes noted that a committee of stakeholders should be formed.

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve moving forward with a feasibility study for consolidation. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Barry Ritter will draft an agreement for his services and forward to Wes and Mayor Westlake. He would facilitate the meetings.

**Ceann Bales, JCDC Executive Director – Bizy Dips Development Agreement**

Motion by May, seconded by Golden to approve the Development Agreement. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Terms of the agreement:

15-year loan of \$137,120 EDIT funds

5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loan, interest will accrue at 1% over the prime rate per Wall St Journal

Meet with East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center once per calendar year

Quarterly financial reports

Business must remain located downtown

Increase both full-time and part-time employees

If all terms are met on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loan, the 50% balance of the loan shall be forgiven.

**Ceann Bales – Update on Rollin J Lanes Development Agreement**

David Jellison, Sr. spoke with the Edit Advisory Committee today at 5:00. He let the committee know the he is still trying to sell the business. He does have someone currently looking at it. He is also looking at the possibility of auctioning the business, items and building if it does not sell in the near future. He will keep Ceann Bales up to date with the progress. No action was taken.

**Ceann Bales – Funding support request for Community Developer / Grant Writer**

The purpose of the funding request is to support hiring a new Community Developer / Grant Writer. The requested amount is \$12,500. Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to approve annual funding in the amount requested. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

**Aaron Kuhn, Resident of Meridian Heights – Request for a rooster ordinance**

Mr. Kuhn shared his concerns with roosters being within the city limits. He noted the noise nuisance of a rooster crowing at 3 a.m. He distributed rooster ordinances from other municipalities. He suggested that the council use these as a model for drafting such an ordinance for Portland. Council members agreed with his concerns and requested that Wes draft an ordinance and present it at the December 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Council Comments**

Matt –

Asked the High School students to introduce themselves and get on the road as the snow started falling during the meeting.

Kent –

Thanked the Street Department for keeping roadways plowed and wished them good luck with overnight plowing.

**Mayor's Report**

Santa will be at the Santa House on East Meridian Street on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7:30 pm.

Jay County Christmas Home tours are coming up. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber.

Art's Place is hosting "Annie" the musical on December 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup>.

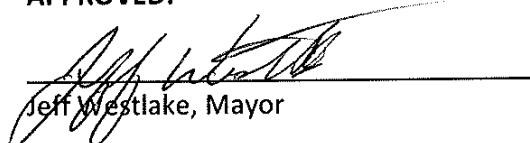
He is putting together a State of the City Address and will soon announce the date.

**Clerk Treasurer's Report**

Nothing to report.

**Adjournment** Motion by May, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer