

The City of Portland
City Council
January 5, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 5, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, and Kent McClung. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.
Absent: Michele Brewster

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of City Council President

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to nominate Kent McClung to remain as Council President for 2026. Roll call vote. McClung abstained from voting. All others present voted aye.

Approval of City Council minutes from December 15, 2025

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the City Council minutes from the December 15, 2025 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Hilfiker to approve two payroll dockets; December 6 for \$160,573.83 and December 20 for \$155,353.63. General, Water and Sewage claims 117217-117546 totaled \$5,420,151.95. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

A list of 2025 encumbered funds to be distributed in 2026 was presented

Ordinance 2026-1; An Ordinance Prohibiting Harboring Livestock in the Corporate Limits – 1st Reading

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve Ordinance 2026-1 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Mike Weitzel, Fire Chief; Provided City Council with quotes and information regarding purchasing a new Tanker truck

Mike noted that the current tanker is a 2001 model and has been in service for 25 years. He hopes that this truck could be used by another department within the county.

Quotes:

1. Donley Safety - \$490,137; (\$468,793 – Cost if the chassis is paid for at time of arrival) (This quote does not have the hoses or nozzles); Leadtime 775 calendar days.
2. Spencer Manufacturing - \$558,442 (Cost if the chassis is paid for at time of arrival). This quote does include the hoses and nozzles. Leadtime 540 calendar days.

Lori noted that the Fire Department has been preparing for this purchase. They currently have \$788,115 in their Non-reverting equipment fund. Mike will take the quotes to the Board of Public Works and Safety on January 8th. Council gave their blessing to move forward with the purchase.

Mike also noted the following:

February 7th – Peggy’s Plunge, United Way fundraiser; city owned pond by Moser Engineering
Recognized Mike Aker for 52+ years of service with the Portland Fire Department.

Council Comments

Matt –

1. Happy New Year to all and wished for successful leadership in 2026.
2. Thank you to all city employees for their dedication and work for the city.

Mike –

1. Requested an update on the funds raised / spend by the Police Department (in reference to the request for donation letter that was previously sent out by the Chief). Mayor Westlake noted that he will find out.

Ron –

1. Requested an update on the status of cameras being placed at the recycling trailers. Hilfiker noted that cameras have been installed.
2. Requested (again) that the council receive police department stats. Hilfiker noted that she has requested this information several times. Mayor Westlake noted that he will look into getting this information.
3. Requested (again) that an ordinance regarding electric bikes be addressed. A discussion of this topic will be added to the next council agenda. Kent noted that the speed a bike can travel should be noted in the ordinance.
4. Requested an ordinance on vacant / blighted buildings be addressed.
5. Requested an update on establishing a Dispatch Committee. Mayor Westlake has received a contract from Barry Ritter. He plans to present that to the Board of Works. There was discussion about the mayor leaving council out of the loop of this contract / committee. Golden noted that he would like to be on the committee. He noted that the study will cost money, but it needs to be done (safety & potential cost savings). Hilfiker noted that central dispatch comes down to safety and needs to be addressed.

Dave –

1. Thanked city employees for keeping the roadways clear during the recent snow event.
2. Thanked Mike Aker for 52 years on the Portland Fire Department. Mike retired at the end of 2025.

Ashley –

1. Hopes that 2026 will bring a better state of mind for all. Noted that all council members were elected to serve Portland and everyone needs to speak up for their constituents.

Kent –

1. Thanked city employees and Mike Aker. He also thanked Wes Schemenaur for his representation of Jay County in a recent 48-Hours documentary. Bad things happen, but justice prevails in Jay County.

Mayor's Report

- None

Clerk Treasurer's Report

- The Blaine Pike project has been closed with INDOT.
- Revenue Replacements need to be discussed and implemented.
- 2026 Council / Mayor appointments need to be presented.
- Some Holidays and Vacation hours have been carried over from 2025 – They will be used within the 1st quarter of this year.

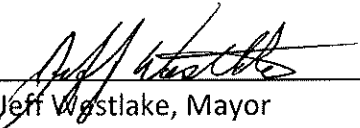
Adjournment Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 5:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer



Jeff Westlake, Mayor