

The City of Portland
City Council
February 2, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor, Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, February 2, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Mike Aker, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, Michele Brewster, and Kent McClung. Also, present was City Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, and Ray Cooney (CR).

Absent: Matt Goldsworthy

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from January 20, 2026

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve the City Council minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve two payroll dockets; January 1 for \$141,128.98 and January 17 for \$142,967.43. General, Water and Sewage claims 117548-117779 totaled \$2,353,043.87. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Council Comments

Ron –

1. Thank you for the many hours that were put in to keep our streets clear during last week's snow storm. This was a city-wide effort with employees from the Street Department, Fire, Water and Wastewater departments!
2. Requested that the following items be added to the next agenda: Discussion on Centralized Dispatch and City Council obtaining their own attorney.
3. Noted that some communities (to save taxpayer dollars) have gone to centralized police departments as well as centralized dispatch.

Dave –

1. Thank you to our amazing employees for all of the hours they spent clearing the roads from snow and ice.
2. Reminded council members that the Board of Works will meet this Thursday, February 5th at 5:15 to vote on the proposal from Ritter Strategic Services, LLC. The proposal is for a study of centralized dispatch / consolidation. He encouraged council members to be present at this meeting.
3. Encouraged homeowners to clear their sidewalks from snow and ice. He noted that many students have to walk to school and how they're either trudging through the snow or walking in the streets to avoid the snow.

Ashley –

1. Also thanked our city employees for their long hours put in to keeping our roads safe.
2. Noted the misinformation recently stated on social media about the request of a study on centralized dispatch. She asked the mayor to explain the purpose of the study and what consolidated dispatch actually means.

Mayor Westlake noted the following:

- City / County form a 911 center with the Sheriff's Department.
- Eliminate city dispatch and integrate with the council.
- Council has requested a study to see what happens to a call when it comes in for fire, police and the ambulance service. The study is to determine which has been the best process for the incoming calls.
- Noted that he listens to the radio traffic and he has seen mistakes on both sides with certain things, but hasn't seen too many large issues of concern.
- Noted the push for the study is from others and not from him.
- Stated that the Board of Works will meet on February 5th to hear the proposal from Ritter Strategic. He encouraged people to come to the meeting to voice their opinion and concerns.

Mindy Huth (member of the audience) spoke about a recent incident where she called the Police Department for fire alarms going off. The dispatcher told her that the call can't be transfer and she would need to hang up and call the Sheriff's Department.

3. Noted the complaints on social media about what the council does / doesn't do. She noted that she would be in favor of someone wanting to start a business or grocery store. She encouraged residents to open a business if they can. If they can't, volunteer in our community and turn the negativity around to make Portland a better place to live.

Kent – Thank you to city employees for their many hours spent plowing snow and salting our roads.

Mayor's Report

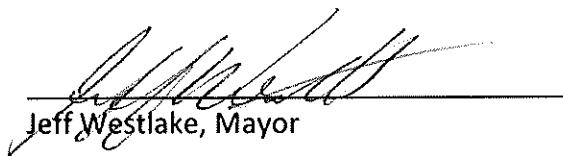
- February 7th – Peggy's Plunge, United Way fundraiser; city owned pond by Moser Engineering
- February 15th – Portland Fire Department's Annual Chili Luncheon fundraiser

Clerk Treasurer's Report

- Reminded residents to let their water drip to prevent frozen pipes.

Adjournment Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 5:44 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer