

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from February 17, 2026

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by McClung to approve the City Council minutes from February 17, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Claims Docket

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve two payroll dockets; January 31 for \$145,588.61 and February 14 for \$144,311.36. General, Water and Sewage claims #117780-118013 in the amount of \$3,360,535.58. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Kimberlee Savick, Baker Tilly – Trash Rate study (Via ZOOM)

The rate study presented included two (2) scenarios. Scenario I: Move \$175,000 landfill costs from MVH to Sanitation fund and increase the rate to \$8.50; Scenario II: Move \$175,000 landfill costs from MVH to Sanitation fund, move \$50,000 in salaries from MVH to Sanitation fund and increase the trash rate to \$10.00. No action was taken on the rate increase.

Mitch Harter – 260 Events; Request for funds

Mitch is planning a summer concert event at Hudson Park on July 25th. He is looking to contract the band "Outlaw Nation". He is requesting funds to help with the following expenses: Secure the band, insurance, promotion, sound and production items and event compliance. He plans to donate any proceeds back to the Park Department.

McClung noted that funds are already given to Art's Place for such events. Mayor Westlake pledged a \$500 sponsorship to the event. Council did not pledge a sponsorship.

Sean Kurtrock and Chris Brooks, Equitable Advisors; 457 Retirement Plan

A 457(b) Retirement Plan was presented for City of Portland employees. It is available for all city employees at no cost to the City of Portland. The program would be administered through payroll deduction. Equitable Advisor's cost to each employee (that participates in the program) is estimated to be 1.1%.

Resolution 2026-1; Resolution to approve 457 Retirement Plan

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by McClung to approve Resolution 2026-1. This resolution approves for the city to provide a 457 Retirement Plan (through payroll deduction and no cost to the city) to city employees. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-1; Ordinance Prohibiting Harboring Livestock in the City Limits – 2nd Reading

It was discussed that this ordinance be amended to prohibit roosters in city limits. Golden suggested the appropriate “premises” be added to the ordinance. Council members should send their suggested changes to Wes so a new ordinance can be drafted.

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to table Ordinance 2026-1 on the 2nd reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Discussion – Hiring a Consultant to complete a study on Centralized Dispatch

Mayor Westlake noted that the BOW will meet this Thursday, March 5th to discuss Centralized Dispatch and council members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Goldsworthy questioned the law on council attending the BOW meeting. Wes noted council can attend but need to limit their conversations to the BOW and not other council members in attendance.

Wes noted that he is working on an Interlocal agreement between the County and City for the public safety radios. Duane Monroe, President of the JC Commissioners, explained the cost figures with the council.

Discussion – City Council hiring Legal Representation

It was agreed that the council wants to start the hiring process for their own attorney. Kent noted that the wages of this attorney can't be higher than what the City Attorney is currently being paid. McClung will be the point of contact. Council members will send McClung their list of potential candidates. Kent will reach out to all candidates and request a proposal from them with their hourly rates. Council could hold an executive session to interview possible candidates.

Kenzie Tobe - Street closure request

A street closure request was made for Saturday, May 16th from 11am – 6pm. The closure on West Walnut from Meridian to Commerce is for a Spring Festival in conjunction with the Arch Bridge Kroozers Car Show. Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the street closure request. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Council Comments

Ashley –

1. Does the City still employ a Code Enforcement Officer? Mayor noted that the code officer has not been working. He stated that the Chief has been doing code enforcement. Ashley questioned the tent on West Votaw that has been there for over a year. Westlake stated that the chief was there yesterday (Sunday) and talked to the owners. They are going to clean up the property.

2. Thanked Mike Weitzel for his dedication to the Fire Department and his years of service as the Fire Chief.
3. Questioned the water / waste water ordinance and how residents are notified of a leak. Lori stated that leak reports are ran regularly and customers are notified of any potential leaks (high consumption). It was noted this is a courtesy and it not in the ordinance that customers are notified. All attempts to notify the customer are made: This includes phone calls and leaving a blue tag on the customers door.

Dave –

1. Thanked Mike Weitzel and noted that he has done a tremendous job as Chief for many years. He noted Mike's accomplishments of being names Citizen of the Year twice!
2. Well wishes to Chuck Denney.

Matt – Noted that elected positions are for public service. We should all be doing what is right for the community and not self-gain.

Mayor's Report


Fiber Fest – Jay County Fairgrounds, March 6, 7 and 8th

Clerk Treasurer's Report

- I will be attending the ILMCT Annual conference next week in Plainfield, and can be reached via text or email. The focus on the conference will be budgeting and finance difficulties with recent legislative changes.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer