

The City of Portland  
City Council  
March 16, 2026  
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:31 PM on Monday, March 16, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Ron May, Kent McClung and Dave Golden. Also, present was Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Absent: Michele Brewster

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of City Council minutes from March 2, 2026**

Motion by Aker, seconded by McClung to approve the City Council minutes from March 2, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Chris Englehardt, Tri-State Gas Tractor and Engine Association – Street Closure Request and Golf Cart Waiver**

Motion by May, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the following: (1) Street closure for Morton Street from Votaw to the Tri-State Entrance from noon on August 14 to noon on August 23. (2) Golf cart waiver (Exhibitors, volunteers and spectators) from August 8<sup>th</sup> through August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Gary Johnston, Arch Bridge Kroozers – Street Closure Request**

Motion by May, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve the street closure request from noon to 6 pm on July 16<sup>th</sup> – West Main Street from Ship Street to Commerce Street and Water Street to Walnut Street. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Resolution 2026-2; Resolution for City to Approve an Interlocal Agreement between City and County for the Purchase of Radio Equipment**

Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Golden to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the County to purchase radio equipment. Roll call vote. May voted nay, all others voted aye.

### **Discussion – City Council’s process to Interview potential Legal Representation**

Motion by May, seconded by Golden for Council President, McClung to (1) Contact and schedule an interview time with Meeks Cockerill. (2) Call for an Executive Council Meeting to interview Mr. Cockerill. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

- Meeks Cockerill is the attorney for both Randolph County and Winchester.
- Per statute the attorney of choice can’t be paid more than the legal counsel that represents the City of Portland.

### **Approve the fund which City Council’s Legal Representation will be paid**

Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to pay legal representation fees from the Council Other Contractual fund. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

### **Amend Agenda to add Ceann Bales, JCDC Executive Director – Recommendation regarding Rollin J Lanes Development Agreement**

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve amending the agenda to add Ceann Bales to the agenda. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

**Ceann Bales – Recommendation from Edit Advisory Committee – Rollin J Lanes**

The Edit Advisory Committee recommended that the City Council forgive the balance of the Edit loan (\$20,934.30) contingent that the property remains a bowling alley. Council accepted the recommendation presented by Ceann. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

**Council Comments**

Ashley -

1. Questioned why semi-trucks (not delivering to Tyson Foods) is using Tyson Road when there is a NO TRUCKS / DELIVERY ONLY sign in place. Mayor Westlake will address this issue.
2. Thanked the Street Department as they helped with the wind damage over the weekend. She noted that it was a group effort to ensure public safety.
3. Questioned why the BOW has now agreed to do the study on consolidated dispatch. Asked if this is an attempt to save face (from all of the public pushback) or was it based on public safety. Mayor Westlake responded with BOTH.
4. Referenced an email that Chief Mock sent out to all of the council members and how it was out of line. She asked the mayor if he knew about the email prior to it being sent out. Mayor Westlake responded that he did not and he has spoken to the chief about the content.

Dave -

1. Thanked all first responders for their public service on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> during the wind storm.
2. Thanked the mayor and BOW for reconsidering and agreeing to do the study for consolidated dispatch.

Ron -

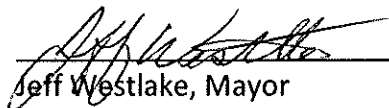
1. Donated \$200 to Art's Place
2. Referenced the email from Chief Mock and asked if he followed the Police Department Chain of Command.
3. Questioned Jeff's decision for demoting Mike Weitzel as the Fire Chief due to the mayor "not connection" with Mike.

**Mayor's Report**

Grateful that the wind damage in Portland wasn't worse than it was over the weekend.

**Adjournment** Motion by May, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 6:09 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jeff Westlake, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer