

The City of Portland
City Council
May 18, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 18, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, Ron May and Michele Brewster. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from May 4, 2026

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve the City Council minutes from May 4, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Duane Monroe, President of JC Commissioners; \$50,000 Request for funds

PEDC has donated 10 acres west of Tyson Foods for the construction of a recycling center. They have requested that the City of Portland contribute \$50,000 towards the project. The request will be paid with Edit funds. Motion by Goldsworthy, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the request in the amount of \$50,000. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-4 Amending Chapter 52 Code of Ordinances; Garbage Collection 1st reading

Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to remove Section "E" of the revised ordinance. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Removed: There is a limit of four (4) privately owned toters.

Ordinance 2026-4 Amend Chapter 52 Code of Ordinances; Garbage Collection 1st reading

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to table this ordinance to discuss the cost (by permit) for privately owned toters. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Brad Dues, Wastewater Superintendent – North Charles Street ongoing issue during rain events

Brad outlined the overflow issue at the manhole on North Charles Street. He noted the cost restraints and the upgraded equipment that would be needed. He estimated nearly half a million dollars to address this one location. He noted that there are several other locations with the same issue.

He stated that the wastewater department contracted with a vendor to run a camera through this manhole. They did discover a significant amount of gravel in the line. They used the vac truck to dislodge the gravel. Brad plans to have the location looked at again to see how much gravel was removed. No action was taken by city council.

Brad Dues – Requested the city council consider amending a payroll policy

The request was made for the city council consider changing the payroll policy to pay city employees overtime for any hours worked outside of their normal eight (8) hour shift. Currently if a holiday falls within a week that employees are called out (above their normal schedule) the employee is paid straight time until they physically work 40 hours. No action was taken on this request.

Brad also addressed social media posts where a resident complained that a city truck was at a local business during city employee working hours. Council members noted that people need to refrain from the negative posts and consider the fact that city employees (even though they may be in a city vehicle) have lunch breaks, etc. That they may use to run errands.

Discussion to suspend take home vehicles - Requested by Councilman Ron May

Councilman May stated that he was considering this option due to the increased cost of fuel (caused by the war with Iran which has temporarily closed the Strait of Hormuz). Officer Denny Fiscus and Officer Brandon Wright spoke in support of keeping the policy in place. They noted safety and response time reasons for not suspending the policy. Ron noted that he had good conversations with other officers who supported the vehicle take home policy. Chief Mock noted that the department is within their fuel budget. Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to NOT suspend the take home vehicle policy. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Discussion to demolish 311 North Meridian Street (Former TJ's Bicycle Shop) – Requested by Councilman Ron May

Councilman May questioned if the entire building was going to be demolished. The mayor noted that the original quote was for just the wooden portion of the building. The police department would like the block portion of the building for storage or a K-9 training facility. Mayor Westlake noted that he has contacted the contractor and requested an updated quote to demolish the entire building. The quotes will go back to the BOW for further discussion. No action was taken by city council.

Council Comments

Dave –

1. Thanked the audience members for their patience throughout the long meeting.
2. Requested an update on the study with Barry Ritter. Chief Mock noted that he continues to receive requests for information from Barry. They are working through those questions and responding back to Mr. Ritter.

Ron –

1. Questioned the City of Portland's Social Media policy. Mayor Westlake noted that it is the employees first amendment right to post on social media (unless doing so during working hours). Attorney Wes Schemenaur agreed that this is a tricky situation, but that employees should be mindful and respectful of their posts.

2. Questioned the mayor about turning in personal miles on the city owned vehicle he drives. He noted that he only uses it for city business and does not turn in any personal miles.

Kent –

1. Followed up on Ron's comments about social media posts. He noted the employers also have a right to discipline city employees for personal attacks on other city employees and / or city business.

Mayor's Report

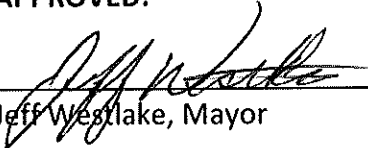
●Noted the many event last weekend: Arch Bridge Kroozers car show, food trucks and vendors around Court Street and the circus at Hudson Park.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

- 1st Brooks Construction will finish 2026 CCMG street paving this week.
- City offices will be closed next Monday to observe Memorial Day. Monday's trash collection will be picked up next Tuesday with Tuesday's normal route.
- The Portland Waterpark will open for the season on Saturday, May 23rd.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer