

The City of Portland
City Council
August 3, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 3, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Matt Goldsworthy, Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Ron May, and Mike Aker. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Absent: Ashley Hilfiker

**Issues with live stream. The system did not record. Will work to resolve this matter. ~LP

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from July 20, 2026

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

Claims Docket

Motion by McClung, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve two payroll dockets; July 4 for \$172,743.96 and July 18 for \$182,990.66. General, Water and Sewage claim #119312-119587 in the amount of \$1,468,834.70. Roll call vote. May voted nay. All others present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-5; Amending Chapter 75, Parking Schedule, 2nd reading

Motion by May, seconded by Goldsworthy to table Ordinance 2026-5 on the 2nd reading. Council would like to review the option of installing mirrors (on poles) versus establishing no parking zones. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Changes:

1. No parking on the north and south side of Arch street 50 feet to the west intersection of Arch Street and Pleasant Street and 50 feet to the east of the intersection.
2. No parking on the east and west side of Pleasant Street 50 feet to the south of the intersection of Arch Street and Pleasant Street and 50 feet to the north of this intersection.

Ceann Bales, JCDC Executive Director; Pioneer Warehouse Tax Abatement – Approval to send to the Tax Abatement Board

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve sending the abatement to the Tax Abatement Board. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Real Property Abatement – Construction of 7 drive-thru truck bays, offices, breakroom, bathroom and locker room. The estimated value of this project is \$2,000,000.

Street Closure Request – Catholic Church

Motion made by May, seconded by Brewster to approve the street closure request. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Request: October 9th from noon to 11pm closure of 506 East Walnut Street (the block on Walnut Street and ½ block of Hayes and the alley behind the church).

Mike Norris – Citizen Concern with cars parking in front yards

Discussion of parking and visibility at the intersection of West North Street / Ship Street

May noted that he does not see any visibility issues at this intersection. Goldsworthy agreed with May and no action was taken.

Council Comments

Matt –

Jay School will be back in session next week. He reminded all residents to slow down in school zones and be mindful of kids heading to and from school.

Mike –

Thanked the Parks Department for the improvement to the pond at Hudson Park. Ronnie, Kody and the parks department placed stone around the edge of the pond to stop the erosion. US Aggregates donated a huge portion of the stone. By doing this project inhouse, a significant savings was gained by the City of Portland. Thank you, Ronnie!

Ron –

1. Requested clarification on a rumor that an officer accidentally discharged a citizen's weapon while on a traffic stop. Mayor Westlake noted that he knows nothing about this incident. May requested an update on this matter at the next council meeting.

2. Noted the massive amount of overtime by the police department and requested that they go back to 2 man shifts instead of 3-man shifts.

3. Noted a post on FB that accused the city council of being corrupt. We asked that the person posting these music videos and posts come to council and address the council members with how they think the council is corrupt.

Kent – Thanked the mayor for his FB comments after recent flyers were distributed throughout the city.

Dave – Echoed Kent's thanks to the mayor.

Mayor's Report

Noted topics that were discussed at his recent mayor's conference: MUST, ICE, and Indiana Fairness Act.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. Water office drive-up window will be closed starting Wednesday until the former TJ's Bike shop is demolished and cleaned up.
2. The August Park Board meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 11th.
3. Starting today, totter stickers need to be purchased and placed on privately owned totters.
4. Water Park: closing date is August 16th.
5. Questioned the mayor if a committee has been formed to evaluate the findings from Barry Ritter's study for possible consolidation of dispatch.
6. Budget and revenue spreadsheets were distributed to council members and the mayor. Budget discussion will be added to the next council agenda. Suggested that department heads attend the meeting to present their requests. Reminder: Budget hearing – September 8th; Budget adoption – October 5th.
7. REMINDER: MUST meeting with the county is set for August 26th at 5:30.

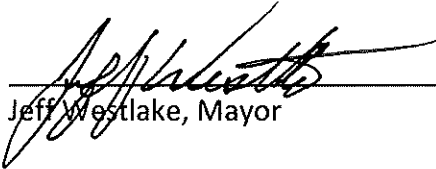
Mike Weitzel noted that tomorrow is the National Night Out event at Hudson Park from 5-7 pm.

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer


Jeff Westlake, Mayor