

The City of Portland
City Council
August 17, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 17, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy, Ashley Hilfiker, Michele Brewster, Ron May, Dave Golden and Mike Aker. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from August 3, 2026

Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve the City Council minutes from August 3, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Ceann Bales, JCDC Executive Director; Pioneer Warehousing Tax Abatement

Motion by May, seconded by Golden to approve the 5-year tax abatement for Pioneer Warehousing. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

The Real Property abatement is to construct a new maintenance garage.

5-year abatement; 2027-2031

Savings over 5 years: \$170,068

John Hemmelgarn and Pati McLaughlin, Building & Planning Department; Recommendation for Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Motion by May, seconded by Golden to vote on the recommendations at the September 8th City Council meeting. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Zoning Amendment Recommendations:

Commercial Battery Energy Storage Systems Regulations

Data Center Facilities Regulations

Commercial Wind Farms / WECS Regulations

Solar Energy System Standard

CO2 Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage Facility Standards

Hannah Long; Main Street Fall Festival – Street Closure Request

Motion by May, seconded by McClung to approve the street closure request for the 5th Annual Fall Festival. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

Closure:

September 26th from noon to 10 p.m.

East Main Street from Meridian Street to Harrison Street.

Jenny Bricker and Jennifer Hartley, Jay County Trails Club and Colby Cline JCDC; River Road path lighting project update

They presented a sketch of the project and noted changes with the number of poles, the lighting details and landscape details. They will continue to move forward with this project.

Ordinance 2026-6; Amending Chapter 75, Parking Schedule, 2nd reading

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-6 on the second reading. 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

Budget Discussion

The following departments presented their 2027 budget proposal: Street, Park, Police and Fire. The mayor and Lori made their recommendations. The proposed budget is \$11,344,977 with an estimated revenue of \$11,231,119. This created a \$113,858 shortfall. Council members are encouraged to reach out to Lori if they have any budget changes they want to address. This needs to be done by the end of next week. The budget hearing is scheduled for September 8th and budget adoption is scheduled for October 5th.

Ordinance 2026-7; 2027 Payroll Ordinance – 1st Reading

Motion by Golden, seconded by McClung to approve Ordinance 2026-7 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. May voted nay, Hilfiker abstained and all others voted aye. The proposed increase is 4%.

Council Comments

Ron – Requested an update on the personnel matter where an officer discharged a civilian weapon while on a routine traffic stop. Wes Schemenaur stated that this matter is still under investigation and should not be discussed tonight.

Dave –

1. Reminded residents that the Tractor and Engine show is next week and there will be lots of additional traffic in town.
2. Requested an update on the Central Dispatch study by Barry Ritter. Lori noted that Barry will be ready to present his findings to City Council at the September 8th meeting.
3. Requested an update on the status of the house (by the Community Center) the was destroyed by fire. Mayor Westlake noted that September 12th is the day that “something can happen with that property”.

Ashley –

1. Noted that solicitors are still out after 5pm. Multiple residents have made complaints to her and stated that she doesn't think that they are getting their permit as required by ordinance.
2. Art's Place concerts at Hudson Park – noted that she received complaints regarding people parking on private properties (with city permission). She asked if the city could make additional parking available at the former book bindery site for such events.

Mayor's Report

1. Noted the great turn out for the last Arts Place concert – ACDC Tribute Band.
2. Reminder that the Tractor and Engine Show will take place August 26 -29th.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. City Council received a thank you letter and a Certificate of Appreciation from the July 4th Committee.
2. We just completed our federal audit for 2025 with an outstanding report from the auditors and State Board of Accounts.
3. The Live Stream was not working at the August 3rd City Council meeting. A notice has been posted on the city website. The streaming loop was out of storage which prevented the recording and upload to

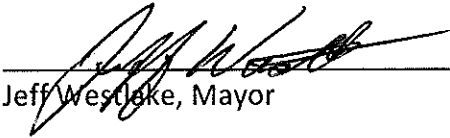
the website. DBS will install an external hard drive and docking system which will automatically move files older than 90 days to the external hard drive.

4. REMINDER: MUST meeting – August 26th at 5:00 in the Court House Auditorium

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer