

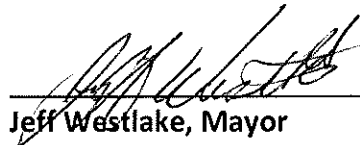
The City of Portland
Common Council – EXECUTIVE MEETING
September 8, 2026
5:00 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Members present were: Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Dave Golden, Ron May, and Kent McClung. Also, present were Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips, Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, Aviation Board President Faron Parr and Vice President Caleb Lutes.
Absent: Matt Goldsworthy and Michele Brewster.

This executive meeting was called under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(D)

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer

The City of Portland
City Council
September 8, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, and Mike Aker. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.

Absent: Matt Goldsworthy

****Issues with live stream:** Internet service was lost during the meeting and it prevented the entire meeting to be uploaded to the website. The recording system did record the entire meeting. The following day the data was retrieved and uploaded to the city website. ~LP

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from August 17, 2026

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

Claims Docket

Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve three payroll dockets; August 1 for \$166,588.94; August 15 for \$166,588.94 and August 29 for \$150,392.93. General, Water and Sewage claim #119589-119911 in the amount of \$3,360,388.12. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-7; 2027 Payroll Ordinance – 2nd Reading – 4%

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-7 on the 2nd reading. Roll call vote. May voted nay, Hilfiker abstained and all others voted aye. Ordinance 2026-7 passed with 4 aye, 1 nay and 1 abstaining.

Mayor Westlake requested that this ordinance be tabled so he could talk to Baker Tilly about the requested pay matrix for the police department.

Ordinance 2026-10; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Commercial Battery Energy Storage System Regulations

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-10 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-11; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Data Center Facility Regulations

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-11 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Jay County resident, Mike Keller urged city council members to keep an open mind regarding data centers. He spoke of the misinformation that has been presented to the public. May agreed with Keller's comments. Golden noted that this ordinance is ordinance is not a hard no. Pati McLaughlin agreed with Golden noting a potential data center facility could still be approved through a special exemption through the city's board of zoning appeals.

Ordinance 2026-12; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Commercial Wind Farm Facility Regulations

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-12 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-13; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Solar Energy System Regulations

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-13 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-8; Repealing Ordinance 2025-4; The Establishment of a Moratorium on Commercial Battery Storage Facilities

Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-8 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-9; Repealing Ordinance 2025-7; The Establishment of a Moratorium on Data Center Facilities

Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-9 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-14; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – CO2 Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage Facility Standards

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-14 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Public Hearing – 2027 Budget

\$11,403,487 is the advertised budget for 2027

\$11,421,119 is the expected 2027 property tax and miscellaneous revenue.

This calculates to an expected budget surplus of \$17,632 for 2027.

~Ron proposed that the requested number of vehicles be reduced due to the sign of "Greatest Hits" that was on display in the dispatch office. The mayor defended "the guys" for "cracking up on each other" and that it was intended as "a joke to themselves". Ashley stated that it is a problem that Jeff did not address the sign in a professional manner. Also, that the sign was disrespectful to the citizens that were hit and to taxpayers.

Replacement of 3 police vehicles is in the 2027 budget.

~Per council's request: Code Enforcement position has been removed from the 2027 budget.

~Mayor Westlake asked that the budget be tabled until he gets a few questions answered by Baker Tilly.

Questions out to Baker Tilly include: Can the general fund be used to purchase new vehicles for the police department and can the general fund support the police chief's pay matrix proposal. Kent noted that council is well into the budget cycle and to change the budget at this point would be an exception.

~Donnie Miller, Assistant Police Chief, asked that the council wait for the study from Baker Tilly to make a final decision on the budget.

~Budget Adoption is scheduled for October 5th.

Council Comments

Ron –

Noted some of trees and the Resource Center are blocking the mural on the south side of the building. The mayor noted that the trees will be trimmed.

Kent –

Thanked police department, fire department, and citizens for making the Tri State Gas Engine and Tractor show successful again this year.

Dave –

1. Echoed Kent's statements and added a thank you to all of the service organizations for their contribution to the show.
2. Citizen concern with the intersection of Votaw Street and Pleasant. He requested that council look at the parking setback.

Ashley –

1. Asked who is responsible for painting and maintaining the curbs. Mayor Westlake noted that this is the responsibility of the street department.
2. Noted that the police department hired Charles Braun to update the department's SOPs in June of 2024 and the document is still not complete. It has been recommended by Charles Braun to hold off on the final document until the tort claims with the police department have been resolved. Ashley addressed; Wes stating the law suits with the police department could take years. Wes agreed and noted that actions could be taken. Mayor Westlake noted that he has a call scheduled with Charles Braun this Thursday and would ask about the timeline to finish the SOPs.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

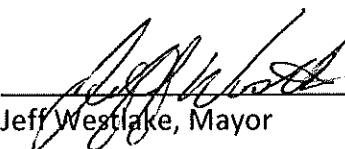
Clerk Treasurer's Report

Reminder: October 5th is budget adoption.

Government students were introduced

Adjournment Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to adjourn at 7:11 pm.

APPROVED:



Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer