The City of Portland
City Council
September 21, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, September 21, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Ron May, Ashley Hilfiker, and Matt Goldsworthy. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips. Absent: Mike Aker

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from September 8, 2026
Motion by May, seconded by Hilfiker to approve the City Council minutes from September 8, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Carolyn Carducci, Arts Place – Request for 2027 Summer Concert funding
Motion by May, seconded by Brewster to approve $15,000 in assistance for the 2027 concert series at Hudson Family Park. This will be paid in January of 2027 from Council Promotion. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-10; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Commercial Battery Energy Storage System Regulations
Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-10 on the 2nd 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 2nd reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.
Jay County resident, Mike Keller spoke in favor of data centers in Portland and Jay County.

Ordinance 2026-12; Amendments to the City of Portland Zoning Ordinance – Commercial Wind Farm Facility Regulations
Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-12 on the 2nd 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 Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve Ordinance 2026-13 on the 2nd 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 May, seconded by Goldsworthy to approve Ordinance 2026-8 on the 2nd 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 2nd 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 May, seconded by Golden to approve Ordinance 2026-14 on the 2nd reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-15; Police Department Non-Reverting Fund

Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve Ordinance 2026-15 on the 1st reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

*Any unspent funds budgeted for police equipment may be transferred into this fund rather than reverting to the general fund. These funds will remain in this non-reverting fund until spent on equipment. It cannot be used for any other purpose. Unused funds will be transferred at the end of the year.

Mayor Westlake's Appointment of Colby Cline as COA facilitator

Motion by McClung, seconded by Golden to approve the mayor's appointment of Colby Cline as the COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) facilitator for the City of Portland. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Council Comments

Ron – Clarified his vote "No" vote on Data Centers on the first reading. He stated that he will not let him personal views override how his constituents feel on this or any other topic that is brought to the city council.

Dave –

1. Noted that many events that will take place this weekend in Portland. Those include: Heritage Festival, Young Eagles event at the Airport, and the Main Street Fall Festival including many food trucks.
2. Requested that the Study for Consolidated Dispatch be placed on the next city council agenda.

Ashley – Trick or Treat hours were discussed. It was decided that Portland residential Trick-or-Treating will be Saturday, October 31st from 5-8 p.m.

Kent – Noted the Homecoming Parade will start at 5:00 this Friday. He also noted the Historical Society festival on East Main Street this Saturday.

Mayor's Report

1. Noted the following weekend events in Portland: Young Eagles event, Brianna's Hope, Main Street Fall Festival.
2. Noted that he will be in French Lick all next week for a mayor's conference. He hopes to gain knowledge on the SB1 bill.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. Reminder: Budget Adoption will be at the next meeting – October 5th
2. Requested an update on a citizen's concern with the intersection of Votaw and Pleasant Street. This discussion will be added to the next agenda.
3. Requested an update on council's multiple requests for police stats. Westlake noted that (today) Mock sent those to Ashley. Westlake noted that he will ask Mock to send those stats to all council members.

4. Requested an update on when the police department SOP's will be presented. At the last meeting Hilfiker questioned the timeline, the fact that Charles Braun was paid in June of 2024 and Charles Braun suggesting that the SOP's not be presented until all tort claims have been resolved. Following the last council meeting Westlake had a phone call scheduled with Charles to discuss the timeline. To date, Westlake does not have a date they will be presented and made no indication that he will peruse this matter.
5. Noted that Westlake and Mock had Barry Ritter's Study for Consolidated Dispatch since around August 17th and didn't allow the council to see the study until Barry Ritter presented it at the September 8th council meeting. There was no comment from Westlake on this matter.
6. Discussion on the email Westlake sent to Baker Tilly and city council members.

Government student was introduced

Adjournment Motion by May, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 6:29 pm.

APPROVED:

Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer