The City of Portland
City Council
October 19, 2026
5:30 PM

City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeff Westlake at 5:30 PM on Monday, October 19, 2026. Roll was called and present were members Kent McClung, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ron May, and Ashley Hilfiker. Also, present were Attorney, Wes Schemenaur, and Clerk-Treasurer, Lori Phillips.
Absent: Matt Goldsworthy and Michele Lambert.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of City Council minutes from October 5, 2026
Motion by May, seconded by Aker to approve the City Council minutes from October 5, 2026 as presented. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Ordinance 2026-16; Amending Chapter 75, Parking Schedules - Pleasant and Votaw, 2nd Reading
Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by May to approve Ordinance 2026-16 on the second reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.
This ordinance prohibits parking on the west side of Pleasant Street 50 feet to the south of the intersection of Votaw Street and Pleasant Street.

Ordinance 2026-17; Amending Chapter 75, Parking Schedules – Bridge Street, 2nd Reading
Several residents on Bridge Street spoke and objected to this ordinance. A petition objecting to this change was presented to council. All residents in this area signed the petition. The council agreed with their objections and Ordinance 2026-17 died from lack of motion.

Ordinance 2026-19; Amending Chapter 32, Amending Section 32.014 – CDL, 1st Reading
Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-19 on the 1st Reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.
This ordinance states that persons holding a CDL permit or CDL license must abide by all stated and federal laws.

Ordinance 2026-20; Amending Chapter 32, Amending Section 32.072 – Use of City Vehicles
Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to approve Ordinance 2026-20 on the 1st Reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.
This ordinance states that persons holding a CDL permit or CDL license must abide by all stated and federal laws.

Ordinance 2026-21; Amending Chapter 30, Amending Section 30.35 – Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions, 1st Reading
Motion by Hilfiker, seconded by McClung to approve Ordinance 2026-21 on the 1st Reading. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.
This ordinance establishes procedures for residents to comment on a resolution or ordinance during a council meeting.

Ordinance 2026-22; Amending Table of Special Ordinances – Adding Record Request Policy, 1st Reading
Motion by May, seconded by McClung to table this ordinance until the next meeting. Council members will review the ordinance and make any suggestions. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

This ordinance establishes a policy for how record requests are received, acknowledged and how information is disbursed.

Discussion – Possible Stop sign at the Intersection of Pearl and Deport Street – eastbound
Motion by McClung, seconded by Hilfiker to table for further review. Roll call vote. All present voted aye.

Council Vote to move forward and start discussions with the County for Consideration of Consolidating the Portland Police Department Dispatch with the County 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)
Motion by Golden, seconded by Hilfiker to approve moving forward and have discussions with the county regarding consolidation of the 911 PSAP. Roll call vote. McClung voted nay. All others voted aye. Motion passed.
Ron – Read a FB post from Mayor Westlake that was inappropriately directed to Barry Ritter.
Kent –

1. Stated that Barry Ritter has been honest and forthcoming with the study and he does not question Barry's integrity.
2. We as council do not hold the cards. The mayor and the BOW would be the ones to sign a MOU and he doesn't think that will happen with the current mayor. This is a topic that may have to wait until the next administration. In the mean time we aren't getting all of the 911 information.

Dave –

1. Requested to hear from Commissioner Aker and former Chief Mike Weitzel. Both Aker and Weitzel spoke in favor of the consolidation.
2. Aker noted that he has spoken with the other commissioners and Sherrif Newton and they are open to the idea of consolidation. Aker noted that MOUs would have to be drafted. He also noted that most counties are going to the combined PSAP.
3. Aker also noted that with the new radio project going on, this is the appropriate time to discuss consolidation.
4. Weitzel asked the council how much is spent annually on fire dispatch. He noted that $0 is spent on fire dispatch and hundreds of thousands are spent annually on police dispatch.
5. Weitzel also noted that we are duplicating services and the people are taught to call 911 for emergency situations not a landline in their community.
6. Weitzel noted that a consolidated dispatch would assist with automatic mutual aid being dispatched at the time of emergencies.
7. Has only heard from the mayor and Mock their concerns with the loss of dispatch jobs, but they have not once addressed consolidation being less costly to taxpayers or less effective to safety.
8. As an elected council member, he wants to go down screaming and do the right thing by discussing the consolidated PSAP with the county.

Ashley –

1. Questioned the mayor on how many tragedies the city could take before he does the right thing and becomes open to having the discussion with the county.

Council Comments
Dave –

1. Thanked the Jay County Solid Waste District for hosting the Tox-Away-Day. 324 vehicles were served and a lot of tires and televisions were properly disposed.
2. Requested an update on the Water Street house that burned down a year ago. Mayor Westlake noted that the deed may be available in November and the process can begin to demolish.

Ashley –

1. Requested an update on the SOP's being delivered by Charles Braun. Also asked to be copied on the email to Braun. Westlake read a memorandum that he prepared and stated that the SOPs are almost complete.

Mayor's Report
Nothing to report

Clerk Treasurer's Report

1. Noted at the next MUST meeting with city and county officials will be next week.
2. Reminder that residential Trick-or-Treating is October 31st from 5-8pm.

Government student was introduced

Adjournment Motion by May, seconded by McClung to adjourn at 6:34 pm.

APPROVED:

Jeff Westlake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer