

ZOOM INFORMATION:

The City Council will conduct this meeting from Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall.

<https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/7511/media>

REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

The City Council will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the City Council's Remote Participation Policy.

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/81114228884?pwd=bjHvOixYFFy9Jdzq5FbpqabKd8pDa.1>

Passcode:588556

Phone one-tap:

+16469313860,,81114228884#,,,,*588556# US

+19292056099,,81114228884#,,,,*588556# US (New York)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Dion led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Dion called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Councilors Present: Councilor Fournier, Councilor Grant, Councilor Bullett, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Michniewicz, Councilor Phillips, Mayor Dion

Councilors Absent: Councilor Sykes, Councilor Ali

5:30 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:

Annie (Outreach Coordinator), Jaime Willey (Clayton Street), Winston Lupkins (Waterville Street), Zach Barowitz (Huntress Street), Stephen Scharff (Brackett Street), Bill Webber (District 5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

City Council Meeting-December 16, 2024

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Phillips for passage.

Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamation 21-24/25 Recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor

Councilor Phillips read Proclamation 21/24/25 Recognizing Martin Luther King Jr Day into the record.

APPOINTMENTS:

Order 120-24/25 Appointing Ronnie Wilson to the Portland Public Art Committee - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Michniewicz for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)
Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Order 111-24/25 Approving Transfer of Funds Under 15 M.R.S. §§ 5824(3) and 5826(6) RE: Ronald Williams - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Fournier to remove Order 111 and Order 112 from the consent agenda and take up items separately. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Phillips to postpone the item until April 7, 2025. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)
Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Order 112-24/25 Approving Transfer of Funds Under 15 M.R.S. §§5824(3) and 5826(6) RE: Gregory K. Waterman - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Fournier to remove Order 111 and Order 112 from the consent agenda and take up items separately. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Phillips to postpone the item until April 7, 2025. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)
Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Order 113-24/25 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Pine & Neal LLC, dba Supper Club Cocktail Lounge. Application for Class XI Restaurant/Lounge at 441 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Orders 113-24/25 through Orders 114-24/25 were all read and passed as consent items. Public comment was taken on all orders together.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Michniewicz for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)
Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Phillips, Councilor Sykes, Mayor Dion

Order 114-24/25 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Camber Hospitality LLC, dba Hot Suppa. Application for Class I FSE with Outdoor Dining on Private Property at 703 Congress Street Avenue - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Orders 113-24/25 through Orders 114-24/25 were all read and passed as consent items. Public comment was taken on all orders together.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Michniewicz for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:
Councilor Phillips, Councilor Sykes, Mayor Dion

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication 7-24/25 Regarding FY2024 Annual Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Activity Report - by Gregory Watson, Housing and Economic Development Director

Greg Watson (Director of Housing & Economic Development) provided communication 7-24/25 Regarding FY2024 Annual Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Activity Report.

As a communication, no Council action is needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Order 108-24/25 Approving Amendments to the Rules of the Rent Board - Sponsored by Rent Board, Christopher (Buddy) Moore, Chair

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Pelletier for passage, as amended. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Motion was made by Councilor Michniewicz and seconded by Councilor Philips to amend the order to add a completeness review. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Amendment in the backup material.

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:
Councilor Fournier, Mayor Dion, Buddy Moore (Chair of the Rent Board)

Order 109-24/25 Accepting and Appropriating a \$3,600,000 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Grant from the Maine Department of Transportation for the Commercial Street/Portland Fish Pier Storm Drain Outfall Project - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Founier for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:
Councilor Phillips, Councilor Bullett

ORDERS:

Order 115-24/25 Approving the Inter-municipal Agreement with City of Westbrook for Nasons Brook - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Michniewicz and seconded by Councilor Founier for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke,

Order 116-24/25 Approving the Publication of a Request for Proposals for the Lease of Up to Two Sites at 1125 Brighton Avenue - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Pelletier for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:

Derryen (Holm Ave), Roseando (Holm Ave), Anna (Prebble Street), Orlando (No address given)

Order 117-24/25 Approving the Agreement With the Portland Water District for a Fire Service Line at the Mujoy Hill Fire Station - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Bullett for passage. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Order 118-24/25 Order Accepting and Appropriating a \$62,610 U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

Motion was made by Councilor Phillips and seconded by Councilor Fournier for passage, as an emergency. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Fournier to waive the second reading. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Phillips, Mayor Dion, Councilor Michniewicz, Councilor Pelletier, Mark Dubois (Police Chief)

**Item passed as an emergency, goes into effect immediately.*

Order 119-24/25 Approving and Appropriating a Federal Aviation Administration Administered Airport Improvement Program and Airport Infrastructure Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Grants - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager

This is first reading.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Discussion of a poverty tax abatement case with the City Attorney pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E) and 36 M.R.S.A § 841

Motion was made by Mayor Dion and seconded by Councilor Fournier to recess the regular meeting of the City Council and go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(E) and 36 M.R.S.A 841 to discuss a property tax abatement case. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali Absent)

Adjourned to executive session at 6:37pm

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Fournier to end the executive session and reconvene the regular City Council meeting. Passage 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali Absent)

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Michniewicz to deny the application for a poverty tax abatement based on consideration of the applicant's income, expenses and assets and our finding that the applicant has the ability to pay the property taxes due on their primary residence and authorizing Corporation Counsel to provide a letter to the applicant with the Council's decision. Denied 7-0 (Councilors Sykes & Ali absent)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Phillips to adjourn. Passage 7-0 at 7:37pm. (Councilor Sykes & Ali absent)

A TRUE RECORD

Ashley Rand, City Clerk