

MARK DION (MAYOR)  
PIOUS ALI (A/L)  
APRIL FOURNIER (A/L)  
BENJAMIN GRANT (A/L)



SARAH MICHNIEWICZ (1)  
WESLEY PELLETIER (2)  
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)  
ANNA BULLETT (4)  
KATE SYKES (5)

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 16, 2026**

**The Portland City Council will hold a City Council Meeting in Council Chambers. The Honorable Mark Dion, Mayor, will preside.**

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email [publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov). Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Council meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the order number (see below).

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

<https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8377/media>

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

### **ROLL CALL:**

### **5:00 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **RECOGNITIONS:**

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

City Council Meeting Minutes 03.02.2026

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

**Proclamation 24-25/26 Recognizing Bridgit Sliwak as the 2025 Civilian of the Year for the Portland Maine Police Department - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

**Proclamation 25-25/26 Recognizing Garrick Rogers as the 2025 Officer of the Year for the Portland Maine Police Department - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

**Proclamation 26-25/26 Recognizing April 6 to April 12, 2026 as National Public Health Week - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Order 147-25/26 Appointing Ethan Maddix as Constable for the Parking Division - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This appointment would appoint Ethan Maddix as Constable and is effective from the effective date of this order until 12:00 midnight, December 31, 2026, and is made pursuant to Portland City Code, Sections 20-19 and 20-19.5. Constables are not allowed

to carry a firearm, concealed or unconcealed, in the performance of duties, or to make arrests.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Order 148-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Cherie LLC, dba Cherie. Application for Class I FSE with Outdoor Dining on Public and Private Property at 249 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 2/18/26. Location was previously Quanto Basta.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 149-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of The Company of Others LLC, dba The Company of Others. Application for Class XI Restaurant/Lounge with Indoor Entertainment at 67 India Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 2/24/26. Location was previously Coffee By Design.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 150-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of 15 Exchange LLC, dba Off Track Pizza. Application for Indoor Entertainment at 15 Exchange Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 2/24/26. This is an existing establishment adding Indoor Entertainment.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 151-25/26 Declaring Sundays on the Boulevard Festival Days in 2026 - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Since 2014, Portland City Council has approved the closing of Baxter Boulevard from Vannah Avenue to Catafalque Drive (the east entrance to Payson Park) to vehicular traffic on Sundays (9:00am to 4:00pm) in order to facilitate "Sundays on the Boulevard."

The Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department would like to continue the tradition of offering this recreational opportunity to the public and requests permission to close the boulevard on Sundays, starting on May 3, 2026 through September 27, 2026, with a time frame of 9:00am to 4:00pm.

To facilitate the closure, city staff will erect barricades across Baxter Boulevard.

For "Sundays on the Boulevard," streets listed below will be closed to vehicular traffic on Sundays from 9am to 4pm: Baxter Blvd. from Vannah Avenue to the Payson Park Access Road (west entrance).

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 152-25/26 Declaring May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027 the Friends of Congress Square Park In the Square Festival - Sponsored by Danielle P West, City Manager**

Friends of the Congress Square Park are requesting to organize and host events in Congress Square Park. The events will include a wide variety of community activities such as art interactions, dance performances, live music, films and community gatherings.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 153-25/26 Declaring June 13 and 14, 2026 the Resurgam Music and Arts Festival - Sponsored by Danielle P West, City Manager**

The Maine Academy of Modern Music will present its fifth annual Resurgam Music Festival on Portland's waterfront, Amethyst Park, Moon Tide Park and Ocean Gateway Parking lot on Sunday June 7th 2026. Resurgam is an inclusive community minded music and arts festival that will showcase Portland's creativity and youth. This event is free and open to the public.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 154-25/26 Granting an Easement to Central Maine Power at Stevens Avenue for Utility Pole - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

The City Council is being asked to approve an easement on the City owned property of 404 Stevens Avenue for placement of a new utility pole by Central Maine Power Company. The existing utility pole/pad 53 and 53.1, Stevens Ave, Portland will be relocated to outside of the public right of way due to a signal project being completed by the Portland Department of Public Works. The signal project being completed by the Portland Department of Public Works will be installing a signal foundation in the location of the existing utility pole.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 155-25/26 Approving Transfer of Forfeiture Assets Under 15 M.R.S. §5824(3) RE: Timothy Edward Hansen - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order authorizes the City Council to approve the Approval of Transfer of Forfeiture Assets from Timothy Hansen to the City of Portland from the case of the State of Maine v. Timothy Hansen. These funds were recovered by the Portland Police Department on May 4, 2020, during an investigation at a local hotel, where Hansen was found in possession of crystal methamphetamine and fentanyl, for which he was charged with Unlawful Trafficking and related charges. This is a preliminary acceptance by the Council of the funds which is required before the State will seek forfeiture from the court.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 156-25/26 Approving Transfer of Forfeiture Assets Under 15 M.R.S. §5824(3)  
RE: Justin I. Williams - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order authorizes the City Council to approve the Approval of Transfer of Forfeiture Assets from Justin Williams to the City of Portland from the case of the State of Maine v. Justin Williams. These funds were recovered by the Portland Police Department following a traffic stop in August 2023, during which Williams was found in possession of approximately 45 grams of cocaine base and suspected drug proceeds. Williams was subsequently charged with Aggravated Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs and related offenses. This is a preliminary acceptance by the Council of the funds which is required before the State will seek forfeiture from the court.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**Order 157-25/26 Approving Transfer of Forfeiture Assets Under 15 M.R.S. §5824(3)  
RE: Charles Aboda - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order authorizes the City Council to approve the Approval of Transfer of Forfeiture Assets from Charles Aboda to the City of Portland from the case of the State of Maine v. Charles Aboda. These items were recovered by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Portland Police Department on April 23, 2024, following the arrest of Aboda, who was found in possession of cocaine base, cocaine HCL, and drug proceeds, with further narcotics and the firearm subsequently seized from his residence. This is a preliminary acceptance by the Council of the assets which is required before the State will seek forfeiture from the court.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage of items on the consent calendar after public comment.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Communication 13-25/26 Adoption of Planning Board Procedural Rules - by Corporation Counsel**

On February 24, 2026, per Subsection 2.1.8 (C) of the Portland Land Use Code, the Planning Board voted to adopt amendments to procedural rules that govern the conduct of the Board's business. Per the requirements of the Land Use Code, these rules were filed with the City Clerk on March 2, 2026. These rules will go into effect 45 days after the date of filing, unless any portions of the rules are vetoed by City Council.

As a communication this item requires no public comment or formal Council action.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Order 142-25/26 Approving Agreement Between the Maine Department of Transportation and Portland RE: Baxter Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation Project - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This project is part of the MaineDOT Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) Program; the City administers the project and typically receives 50% of project costs from the state. By signing the partnership agreement, it enables the City to proceed with the project and obligates MaineDOT to pay \$570,000 or approximately 50% and the City to pay for approximately 50% of the original estimated project cost; the City share is estimated to be \$570,000.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on March 2. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 143-25/26 Approving Agreement Between the Maine Department of Transportation, Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System, the Greater Portland Council of Governments, and the City of Portland RE: Improvements to High Street - Proposed Improvements to High Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This project is part of the Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) Program; the City administers the project and typically receives a portion of funding from the state MPO. By signing the partnership agreement, it enables the City to proceed with the project and obligates PACTS to pay \$300,000 or approximately 30% and the City to pay for approximately 70% of the original estimated project cost; the City share is estimated to be \$695,000.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on March 2. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 144-25/26 Approving Agreement Between the Maine Department of Transportation and the City of Portland RE: Improvements to Signal Equipment at the the Interstate 295 Ramps & Veranda Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This project was administered through MaineDOT's Bridge Program, and was generally completed in 2023. However, additional work was done on the new traffic signal and related equipment to enhance traffic and bicycle flow along Veranda Street. By signing the maintenance agreement, it enables MaineDOT to close out the project, which obligates the City to ongoing maintenance of the equipment following project completion.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on March 2. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 145-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 14 RE: Land Use Code Updates - Sponsored by Joseph Zamboni, Chair, Portland Planning Board**

This is a companion order to the order below.

On January 27, 2026, the Planning Board voted unanimously (6-0, Fox recused) to recommend a set of text and map amendments to the City Council. These amendments were developed by the Planning & Urban Development Department in collaboration with Permitting & Inspections and Corporation Counsel. They are intended to address minor errors, inconsistencies, and interpretation issues that have become apparent in the year following the adoption of ReCode. They include text amendments to seven articles of the

land use code (Administration, Definitions, Use Standards, Dimensional Standards, Overlay Zones, Site Plan, and Signs) and four map amendments.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on March 2. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 146-25/26 Amendment to Portland Zoning Map RE: Updates - Sponsored by Joseph Zamboni, Chair, Portland Planning Board**

This is a companion order to the order above.

On January 27, 2026, the Planning Board voted unanimously (6–0, Fox recused) to recommend approval of a set of zoning map amendments to the City Council. These four map amendments are companion items to the zoning text amendments developed by the Planning & Urban Development Department as part of a broader package of proposed Land Use Code and zoning map updates, prepared in collaboration with Permitting & Inspections and Corporation Counsel. Together, they are intended to address minor errors, inconsistencies, and interpretation issues identified during the first year of ReCode implementation. The package of map amendments is intended to correct mapping errors and address changes in ownership affecting lots that were unintentionally split between zoning districts. This effort was informed by a comprehensive review of all split-lot conditions on the peninsula and is designed to remedy those that were unintentional, as well as to update the University of Southern Maine Overlay Zone to reflect existing conditions.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on March 2. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**ORDERS:**

**Order 158-25/26 Accepting and Appropriating a \$500 Donation from Alireza Shahin Khojastehzad to the Shahnaz Mahager Hummingbird Grant Program - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

At the July 15, 2024, City Council meeting, the Council authorized the Shahnaz Mahager Hummingbird Grant Program and accepted and appropriated the initial capitalization and donation for the program in the amount of \$18,105 from Alierza Shahin Khojastehzad and his sister Farnaz Khojastehzad in memory of their mother, Shahnaz Mahager.

The program grants \$1,000 annually to a Portland business whose owner's most recent annual adjusted gross income is below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) and are female, immigrant-owned businesses located in Portland with priority given to the cosmetology business.

Mr. Khojastehzad would now like to donate an additional \$500 for the program, which is administered by the Housing and Economic Development Department. City Council is being asked to accept and appropriate this additional \$500 donation to the Program.

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**Order 159-25/26 Approving Subaward Agreement Between MaineHealth and the City of Portland and Accepting and Appropriating \$23,815.42 for Project DHARMA - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order approves a subaward agreement between the City of Portland Public Health Division and MaineHealth to participate in the research study titled "Enhancing Project DHARMA; evaluating a community-based drug checking navigator intervention to prevent overdoses." This agreement provides \$23,815.42 in federal pass-through funding to support the City's participation in the study, which includes facilitating participant recruitment, data collection, and collaboration on drug-checking result reporting.

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**Order 160-25/26 - Approving Memorandum of Agreement and Accepting and Appropriating \$300,000 from Trinity Episcopal Church RE: Trinity Park - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Portland and Trinity Episcopal Church related to proposed improvements to Trinity Park. Under the terms of the agreement, the Church will provide a project plan, a financial contribution of \$300,000 for improvements within Trinity Park, and ongoing maintenance of certain areas of the park. The City will manage the public bidding process, the construction contract and fund improvements within the Forest Avenue right of way adjacent to Trinity Park.

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**Order 161-25/26 Appropriating Bond Proceeds and Other Funds for the City's FY2027 Capital Improvement Program - Sponsored by the Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The Finance Committee voted on March 5, 2026 to recommend passage of this item, vote (2-0, Pelletier absent). This is a companion order to the bond authorization order below.

The Finance Committee met several times during late 2025 and early 2026 to discuss the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). In last year's CIP process, changes to better incorporate equity, sustainability and other City Council goals were made. These successful changes were continued in the current year based on guidance from the Committee. The Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Plan (FY27 CIP) has been in development since mid-2025. The list of FY27 CIP calls for over \$46M of new projects but only \$17.4M this total will have a net impact to debt service in the general fund operating budget. A broad variety of other funding sources including the enterprise funds (for sewer and stormwater projects) are being used to finance the remainder of the CIP.

Two orders are required related to the CIP: one authorizing the FY27 CIP bonds; and a second appropriating the proceeds and other funding sources providing City staff with spending authority for the upcoming projects. A complete listing of the projects being authorized is included within the orders.

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**Order 162-25/26 Authorizing General Obligation Bonds to Finance a Portion of the City's Fiscal Year FY27 Capital Improvement Program - Sponsored by the Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The Finance Committee voted on March 5, 2026 to recommend passage of this item, vote (2-0, Pelletier absent). This is a companion order to the bond appropriation order above.

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**Order 163-25/26 Accepting and Appropriating Federal Aviation Administration grants, state of Maine Grants, State of Maine Matching Grants, and Portland International Jetport Unrestricted Matching Funds - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues grants to fund eligible safety, capacity, and terminal improvements to airports through several nationwide grant programs authorized under federal law. This item accepts and appropriates \$8.64 million in FAA federal grant funding to be awarded to the Jetport, \$480,000 in state of Maine matching funds, and \$480,000 in Jetport unrestricted fund matching contributions. The allocation from each grant program and funding source is listed below.

|                                                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| FAA Airport Grant Funds                          | \$8,640,000 |
| State of Maine Matching Funds                    | \$480,000   |
| Jetport Unrestricted Fund Balance Matching Funds | \$480,000   |
| Total                                            | \$9,600,000 |

The Jetport will use this appropriation, totaling \$9.6 million, to complete the following two projects:

- Terminal Apron Reconstruction Phase 2
- Long-Term Hold Area, Deicing Pad Expansion & RON Apron Construction Phase 2

This item must be read on two separate days. This is its first reading.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**