

**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/8378/media>

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Dion lead all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Dion called the meeting to order at 5:03PM.

Councilors Present: Councilor Grant, Councilor Sykes, Councilor Ali, Councilor Michniewicz, Councilor Bullett, Councilor Phillips, Mayor Dion (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: George Rheault (Hanover St)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Dion opened the floor for Council announcements. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Dion took a non-agenda item out of order:

Councilor Michniewicz read Proclamation Recognizing April 13th to April 19th 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week into the record.

**SPECIAL MEETING:**

**Special Meeting of the Corporator of the Portland Development Corporation**

**Order 164-25/26 Approving the Portland Development Corporation Business Continuity Loan Program and Guidelines - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Motion was made by Councilor Grant and seconded by Councilor Sykes to recess the City Council Meeting and convene the Special Meeting of the Corporator of the Portland Development Corporation. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Danielle West (City Manager), Councilor Grant, Councilor Phillips, Nancy Martin (Business Programs Manager, Economic Development Department)

**Special Meeting of the Corporator of the Portland Fish Pier Authority**

**Order 165-25/26 Appointing Mike Alfiero a Class B Director of the Board of the Portland Fish Pier Authority - Sponsored by Legislative & Nominating Committee, Mayor Mark Dion, Chair**

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Sykes to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Portland Development Corporation and convene the Special Meeting of the Corporation of the Portland Fish Pier Authority. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

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

Motion was made by Councilor Sykes and seconded by Councilor Ali to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Corporation of the Portland Fish Pier Authority and reconvene the regular City Council Meeting. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

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

**City Council Meeting Minutes 03.16.2026**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Order 166-25/16 Appointing Elizabeth Kampsen as Constable for the Portland Police Department - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

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

**Order 167-25/26 Appointing Wardens and Ward Clerks for the 2026-2027 Election Year - Sponsored by Abbey Lombard, Interim City Clerk**

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

**Order 168-25/26 Appointing Election Clerks for 2026 to 2028 - Sponsored by Abbey Lombard, Interim City Clerk**

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

**Order 169-25/26 Appointing Members to Various Boards & Committees - Sponsored by Legislative & Nominating Committee, Mayor Mark Dion, Chair**

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

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

**Order 170-25/26 Confirming the Appointment and Setting the Salary of Abbey Lombard as City Clerk - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

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

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

**Order 171-25/26 Appointing Abbey Lombard as Registrar of Voters for the Duration of Appointment as City Clerk - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke:  
Steven Scharf (Brackett St), Mark Waitfield (Portland resident)

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Order 172-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Digu 37 LLC, dba Empire Chinese Kitchen. Application for Class I FSE 575 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Order 172-25/26 through Order 173-25/26 were read and passed as consent items: Public comment was taken on orders together.

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke.

**Order 173-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Barkada LLC, dba Barkada. Application for Class IV FSE with Outdoor Dining on Private Property at 425 Fore Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Order 172-25/26 through Order 173-25/26 were read and passed as consent items: Public comment was taken on orders together.

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke.

**BUDGET ITEMS:**

**Order 174-25/26 Receiving and Referring City Manager's Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget to the Finance Committee and Setting Date of Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget and Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Resolve - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Grant to refer matter to the Finance Committee. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Danielle West (City Manager), Mark Dion, William Higgins (Riverside St)

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolve 9-25/26 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan including Appropriations for Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Certifications Pertaining Thereto - Sponsored by Danielle West, City Manager**

*First reading.*

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Danielle West (City Manager), Teale Smith (CDBG Chair), Victoria Morales (Executive Director of Project HOME), Nicole Proctor (Executive Director Portland Recovery Community Center)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**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**

Motion was made by Councilor Sykes and seconded by Councilor Ali for passage.

Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke.

**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**

Motion was made by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Ali for passage.

Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Maggie McLoughlin (Director of Health and Human Services), Casandra Wilber (Prescription Monitoring Program), Wayne Higgins (Riverside St), Councilor Bullett, Councilor Sykes, Councilor Michniewicz

**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**

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

Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Ethan Hipple (Director Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department), George Rheault (Hanover St), Councilor Michniewicz, Councilor Phillips, William Spear (Bradley St)

**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**

Motion was made by Councilor Sykes and seconded by Councilor Ali to suspend to the April 27, 2026, City Council Meeting. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Grant, Councilor Sykes, Jon Kachmar (Land Bank Chair), Steven Scharf (Brackett St), Ryan Scallon (Superintendent Portland Public Schools), Kristen Kresge (Member of the Friends of Congress Square Park), George Rheault (Hanover St), Ethan Hipple (Director Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department), Councilor Bullett, Councilor Michniewicz, Kevin Kraft (Director of Planning), Councilor Phillips, Mayor Dion, Michael Goldman (Corp Counsel), Brendan O'Connell (Finance Director) Danielle West (City Manager)

Main motion made by Councilor Grant and seconded by Councilor Michniewicz.

Discussion

Grant Amendment: Amendment was not discussed prior to order being postponed.

Amendment in backup materials.

Sykes Amendment: Motion was made by Councilor Sykes and seconded by Councilor Grant to amend. Amendment failed 3-4 (Councilors Ali, Phillips, Bullett and Mayor Dion opposed). Amendment in backup materials.

Fournier Amendment: Motion was made by Councilor Grant and seconded by Councilor Bullett to amend. Amendment failed 4-3 (Councilors Ali and Michniewicz and Mayor Dion opposed). Amendment in backup materials.

Motion to reconsider Fournier amendment made by Councilor Grant and seconded by Bullett. Passage 6-1 (Councilor Michniewicz opposed)

Fournier Amendment failed 4-3 (Councilors Ali and Michniewicz and Mayor Dion opposed).

**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**

Motion was made by Councilor Phillips and seconded by Councilor Sykes to postpone. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke.

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

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Paul Bradbury (Airport Director)

Motion made by Mayor Dion and seconded by Councilor Phillips to amend. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

**ORDERS:**

**Order 175-25/26 Accepting the 2025 Land Bank Commission Annual Report - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Jon Kachmar (Chair of the Land Bank), George Rheault (Hanover St), Councilor Sykes

**Order 176-25/26 Re-Establishing the Community Development Block Grant Priority Setting Task Force and Appointing Members - Sponsored by Danielle West, City Manager**

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: No one spoke

**Order 177-25/26 Amending Order 18-24/25 to Adjust Project Name and Address and Reallocate Funding - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair**

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Mary Davis (Housing and Community Development Division Director)

**Order 178-25/26 Approving the Renewal of Portland's Participation in the Cumberland County HOME Consortium - Sponsored by the Housing & Economic Development Committee, Councilor Pious Ali, Chair**

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

Mayor Dion opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke: Mary Davis (Housing and Community Development Division Director)

**Order 179-25/26 Appropriating 10.1 Million Dollars from Jetport Unrestricted Funds to Commence Design on the Phase 3 Parking Garage and Improve and Expand a Public Surface Parking Lot at the Portland International Jetport - Sponsored by the Sustainability & Transportation Committee, Regina Phillips, Chair**

*First reading.*

**AMENDMENTS:**

**Order 180-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 2 RE: Immigration Enforcement - Sponsored by Councilors Pious Ali & Regina Phillips**

*First reading.*

**Order 181-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 14 RE: Definition of Main Entrance for Entertainment Businesses in B-3 and WCZ Zones - Sponsored by Portland Planning Board, Joseph Zamboni, Chair**

*First reading.*

**Order 182-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 14 RE: Large Theater and Performance Hall Dispersal Requirements - Sponsored by Portland Planning Board, Joseph Zamboni, Chair**

*First reading.*

**Order 183-25/26 Terminating the Moratorium on Theater and Performance Hall Projects with a Capacity Exceeding 2,000 People in the City of Portland Established by Order 9-25/26 and Extended by Order 131-25/26 - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

*First reading.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Phillips to adjourn. Passage: 7-0 (Councilors Fournier and Pelletier absent)

Adjourned 8:00PM

A TRUE RECORD

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Abbey Lombard, City Clerk