



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MEETING TO BE HELD REMOTELY

DATE: December 16, 2020

TIME: 5:00 PM

ZOOM INFORMATION:

The City Council will hold a workshop on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:00 PM. This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom. Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403-A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day. For public comment, use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, hit *9. You will be un-muted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85427429274?pwd=MEd6VHJTcTJJQ1ZxK2pEbG85L3pUQT09>

Passcode: 667920

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,85427429274#,,,,,0#,,667920# or

+13126266799,,85427429274#,,,,,0#,,667920#

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Webinar ID: 854 2742 9274

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International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcVYdAxUZn>

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. City Council Goal Setting

City of Portland City Council Workshop Session Agenda
Establishing Priorities for 20201
December 16, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Desired Outcomes

By the end of this session, we will have:

- Clear, agreed-upon approaches for working together during the upcoming year and shared Council goals that will direct our work as the year unfolds;
- A shared understanding of how Council Goals are advanced within 2021 Council Committee Work Plans

What	When
Getting Grounded ▪ Welcome, Agenda Review ▪ Context Setting ○ The role of municipalities in cultivating conditions for achievement of community priorities	5:00 – 5:20
Getting Underway ▪ Advance preparation submissions – summary review ○ Clarifying questions ▪ Reaching agreement on a set of priorities for how we will work together throughout 2021 to maximize our effectiveness, and development of 2021 Goals to guide our work	5:20 – 6:30
Break	6:30 – 6:45
Setting All Contributors Up for Success ▪ Identifying agreed-upon methods for cultivating shared focus between the council and committees throughout the year	6:45 – 7:45
Wrapping Up ▪ Next Steps: What, Where ▪ Second Workshop to review and discuss 2021 Committee Work Plans that reflect Council Goals ▪ +/- Δ	7:45 – 8:00

City of Portland – Proposed 2021 Operating Principles and Goals

Proposed Operating Principles

Mark

- Praise in public, critique in private.
- Do not fall in love with the sound of my own voice.
- Be prepared and do the homework.
- Have fun, work at being a positive influence with my peers.
- Appreciate who people are even if it's not who you would wish they would be.
- Admit when you are wrong...it's just easier.

Pious

- Always assume good intentions, when in doubt ask for clarity.
- Healthy conflict is inevitable in any group setting, if it does happen, engage respectfully (we don't have to agree to respect each other).
- Give colleagues honest feedback, it helps build healthy relationship.
- Try to appreciate colleagues and staff for their hard work and dedication to the well-being of the city.

April

- Identify our communication styles early. Learning what type of communicators we are can help create better expectations in messaging, delivery and response.
- Identify the flow of information. We're all busy. We all have important information to share. If my expectation that all really important committee information is going to come from Councilor A and then I don't hear from Councilor A ever, but get regular emails from Councilor B. My expectation was different than reality. And that creates a disconnect which then impacts the flow of information and our ability to be prompt and responsive.
- Assume best intentions. I don't believe that we as councilors, you as mayor, city manager, counsel or staff are going to act with malicious intent. So when we are receiving information we should assume the best intentions. This sometimes means that we have to see past emotions to hear the real message and request behind it. This leads me to a goal area.

Andrew

- Full community engagement through getting feedback.
- Setting big picture goals with tangible/attainable/measurable “wins” along the way.
- Commit fully to our goals. Hold ourselves and one another accountable to the communities we represent and serve.

Belinda

Principle: Open Communication (Overall, I think we are very good at this, and I'd love to see it continue)

Background: It's not always possible for Councilors, as part-timers, to alert all other Councilors to big issues they're dealing with and that may be coming before the Council or a committee. Of course, we get first reads to let us know when something is coming up on an agenda, but it's also helpful to know if there is controversy around an issue or if there have been in-depth discussions between councilors/community members that not all of us may be aware of. To this end, the Mayor has been fantastic about raising these issues and getting them on people's radar in advance of meetings. Some practices that could help to continue the Mayor's good work and to further enhance open communication include:

- Councilors should use the Mayor as a resource to enhance Council Communications, meeting with her regularly and/or emailing/calling her to keep her aware of any issues, policies, etc.
- The Mayor should regularly share information between Council members.
- When possible, Committee Chairs should communicate when "big issues" are on their agendas (announcements at Council meetings are great for this).
- When councilors have amendments to upcoming agenda items, they should email them to all councilors as a heads up prior to meetings (as far in advance as possible). Even if they're not written yet, it's good to know someone is looking to offer an amendment and what the gist of it may be. This also keeps us from having a bunch of competing amendments that are all trying to do similar things.

Spencer

- Find a way to meet in person at a social distance in the first half of 2021.
- Require substantive amendments to be circulated on or before the Friday before the upcoming Monday deadline.

Nick

- Treat each other and the public respectfully.
- Communicate clearly and thoughtfully.
- Move on following votes and support majority decisions.
- Be willing to discuss and think through how to balance process, results and relationships when dealing with challenging and controversial items.

Kate

- For planned amendments, especially if staff support is needed for drafting, be sure to provide ample time for both drafting, sharing (ahead of meeting date) and posting to the agenda packet.

- Work consistently to ensure alignment of Council agendas/work to shared Council Goals, and also to be responsive to staff needs as they implement policy and work to support CoP priorities and goals.
- Asking ourselves consistently: what is a municipal responsibility, where do we need partners to achieve goals, what belongs to the private sector?

Proposed Goals

Pious

1. Implementation of the recommendations from the Racial Equity Steering Committee.
2. Housing, focus on models, policies, and stakeholder involvement (organizing housing seminar with all stakeholders) exploring how other communities have gone about solving the housing crisis (from last year) .
3. Economic Development with a special emphasis on workforce training(adult Ed) and transportation.
4. Inclusion and Engagement, starting with creating a participatory budget process, using CIP to run a pilot for a year and sturdy into Universal basic income if it is doable in Portland i.e. criteria and how to fund. (a pilot program).

April

1. If we want to be able to trust each other and have the public trust us, we should be transparent and inclusive in the work that we do. This means that we should speak clearly, directly, and provide the information we have that impacted our decision-making as publicly accessible as possible. This doesn't mean buried in our city website. This means making an active effort at sharing what we're doing. Not everyone has access to technology, not everyone can dig for information on the site, not everyone would even know where to start.

Being inclusive means that we're also a welcoming body to engage with. We should recognize that when the public address us, it is a privilege for us to have them take the opportunity to share information with us. They are giving us a gift, they are giving us a chance to make a correction, an adjustment, an improvement to our practice. There might be a lot of emotion in front of it. There might be harsh language. We need to actively work to hear the message and consider how we can help. This might mean that public comment runs long. But the more connected and inclusive we are with the public, the less they have to guess about what we're doing.

2. Addressing Homelessness

We heard from the city manager during the L&N committee meeting that the regional service center (aka megashelter) is awaiting funding. How can we work better with our legislative delegation to secure funding or identify a private partner to get this built.

We have area agencies working on the contributing factors that cause individuals to become homeless. Do we have a city scorecard for how they are doing? How do we know when programs work? When they don't work? How do we adjust and respond?

3. Police Reform

Having come from the PCRS and understanding the non-oversight nature of that committee, when we talk about social justice, reform and anti-racism work we must ensure that examining the structure, ordinance and activities are at the top of our actions list. True oversight is not citizens signing off on a process and not the quality or substance of a complaint. Community voices are reaching out and asking for this to change.

In the L&N committee meeting I believe the City Manager mentioned that the HHS budget and Public Safety budget were 34 million each. I would like to see more funding go into HHS, the mental health liaisons for the PD be housed within HHS in a Mental Health Services Division. I don't think we have it yet, but we should.

Andrew

1. Fight Climate Change and prioritize the Sustainability Department through policy and funding.
2. Adopt & institute anti-racist and anti-discrimination training for all City Staff, appointed Boards & Committees, and Elected officials.
3. Continue effort to reduce homelessness, assist people experiencing homelessness through city, regional and state efforts.
4. Develop and encourage small business innovation and advocacy for a robust local economy. Create an economic roadmap to guide us through the remainder of the pandemic into a post-pandemic recovery plan.

Belinda

1. Spend time at the committee level reviewing recently passed citizen initiatives to see if there are unintended consequences/negative impacts. If so, work to make positive changes that ensure we can make progress in these areas and get those changes back out to voters, preferably in June, but if not, then in November.
2. Seek to improve the way the Council receives oral public comment.
3. Increase access to rental and home ownership that is safe, affordable, and accessible.
4. Continue effort to reduce homelessness and assist people experiencing homelessness through city, regional, and state efforts.
5. Increase public transit infrastructure and capacity in the city.

6. Seek to address the high property tax burden in Portland by passing an affordable combined school/city budget and by pursuing other revenue sources.

Tae

1. Mental health.
2. Pedestrian and bicycle streets along major corridors.
3. Affordable housing.
4. Affordability – taxes – stabilize property taxes.
5. Opportunities – develop high and low skill manufacturing jobs.
6. Social justice – better pathways to integrate people experiencing homelessness

Mark

1. Advance our efforts to manage and effectively respond to the homeless condition in our City.
2. Advance our efforts in addressing the rate of opiate/substance use disorder and overdose deaths among our residents.
3. Provide property tax relief targeted for long term, elder homeowners.
4. Improve pedestrian infrastructure in D-5.
5. Incentivize development of the Riverton Trolley Park in D-5.

Spencer

1. Housing. Continued allocation of funding to the Housing Trust Fund and exploration of affordable housing proposals, including projects on City owned property.
2. Retention and Growth of Local Business. Ensure business certainty for small business owners and employees in 2021-2022.
3. Completion of Infrastructure Projects in District 2, including Andrews Square, Valley Street Park, and Bramhall Square.
4. Infuse capital for small businesses struggling in Portland.

Nick

1. Find a way to get agreement that Committee work should align with Council goals.
2. Adopt a budget that takes into consideration the multiple financial impacts taxpayers are dealing with right now.
3. Continue to work to find a solution to homelessness.
4. Continue to support an increased supply of housing.

Kate

1. Communications: Provide funding in the FY22 Budget for additional CoP capacity for communications, public relations, and community engagement. (I believe this will be an ongoing body of work that will seek to address concerns about website useability, access to info, coverage from City Hall about all sorts of topics, building 'campaigns' for info sharing. Let me say - I think Jessica does fantastic work! We just need more for her office, and also the possibility of hiring out capacity when that makes sense.)
2. Homelessness: Continue, determine, and communicate CoP response to Homelessness within the context of the State of Maine's strategy for addressing the needs throughout the region and state.
3. Housing: Continue and expand efforts to cultivate an environment in the CoP that supports the development of affordable housing.
4. Ensure Council Committee Work Plans line up with Council's stated 2021 Goals. (Consider adding quarterly reports, or bi-annual reporting from Committees to Council in order to keep communication two-way and available to both Council and community.)
5. Portland as a place to Live, Work, go to School - I believe that part of Portland's greatness and attraction relies on people being able to live, work, and raise a family here (using the public school system!). This requires a complex web of circumstances: affordability in terms of access to diverse housing options as well as affordable residential property taxes, a diverse tax base that alleviates pressures on homeowners, safe streets (in terms of personal safety for people of all backgrounds: race, age, gender, etc), as well as safety and security that results from good sidewalks, safe and consistent bike lanes, lighted walking routes), parks and playgrounds that offer people access to recreation and green, open space. I think we need to be part of a strong and growing regional transportation system (which we are). We need to continue to attract businesses to locate in Portland, so that people can live and work in the same community, which helps to alleviate sprawl and encourage diverse modes of movement.