

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 - MAY 18, 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/8381/media>

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **RECOGNITIONS:**

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

### **SPECIAL MEETING:**

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

**City Council Meeting Minutes 05.04.2026**

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

**Proclamation 23-25/26 Recognizing South Portland Resident Juliet Shane for Her Work to Significantly Improve Tracking of Arrivals and Departures at the Portland International Jetport - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

**Proclamation 35-25/26 Recognizing Paul Bradbury for Receiving the 2026 AAAE Chair's Award - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

**Proclamation 36-25/26 Recognizing May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month - Sponsored by Mark Dion, Mayor**

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Order 206-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of 1st Step INC, dba Keg and Kraken. Application for Class I FSE at 653 Congress Street - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 4/27/26. This is a change of ownership of an existing establishment.

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

**Order 207-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of The Velvet Dog LLC, dba The Velvet Dog. Application for Class I FSE at 24 Preble Street Unit 1 - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 4/15/26. Location was previously Arcadia.

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

**Order 208-25/26 Granting Municipal Officers' Approval of Cocktail Mary LLC, dba Cocktail Mary. Application for Class A Lounge at 30 Market Street 2nd Floor - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

Application was filed on 4/27/26. Location was previously Pat's Pizza.

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

**BUDGET ITEMS:**

**THE CITY COUNCIL HELD A FIRST READ ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 SCHOOL BUDGET AT THE MAY 4, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND ACCEPTED PUBLIC COMMENT. THE SECOND READ AND A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET WILL BE HELD DURING THIS MEETING (MAY 18, 2026 AT 5:00 PM).**

The City Council Finance Committee voted on April 28, 2026 to recommend passage of FY27 School Board Recommended Budget as presented by Superintendent Scallon in the amount of \$167,001,038. Passed (3-0).

**Order 196-25/26 Approving State/Local EPS Funding Allocation for Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 for Portland Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The following School Budget Orders are required by 20A M.R.S. §15690 in order to comply with what is known as LD1, a set of state laws passed to control increases in property taxes.

This order provides \$107,162,020 as the amount determined by state law to be the minimum amount the City must appropriate in order to receive the full amount of state funding under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

This order requires the city to raise \$93,793,557 as the city's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from K12 as described in the EPS law. The City's tax levy based on the budget submitted by the Portland Board of Public Education for the total for school budget programs of \$158,248,564 will be \$133,092,313.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 197-25/26 Approving Non-State Funded School Construction Debt Service for Portland Schools for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

Nonstate funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the City's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and portions of school construction projects that are not approved for state funding. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters or the City Council.

This order appropriates \$394,759 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the voters or the City Council for non-state (local only) funded school construction projects. The state no longer includes minor capital projects in this calculation. The \$394,759 is in addition to the funds appropriated as the EPS required local share (amount of the City's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12).

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 198-25/26 Raising and Appropriating Additional Local Funds for Portland Schools for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order appropriates \$39,298,756 in additional city funds over and above the regional Essential Programs and Services amount and the nonstate funded debt service amount.

This exceeds the EPS funding model by \$39,298,756 and is needed to cover the School Department's costs that the state's funding model does not recognize or recognize fully, including costs to maintain class size; Special Education costs; Regular Instruction costs; Facilities Maintenance costs to address deferred maintenance; technology costs; transportation costs; professional development costs; debt service for pension obligation; and debt service capital renovation costs.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 199-25/26 Approving Total School Operating Budget For Portland Schools for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order is required by 20A M.R.S.A. §15690(4)(A). It sets the School Budget required by state law.

This will be sent to the voters for approval at a citywide Referendum Election on June 9, 2026. \$135,441,246 of the \$167,001,038 would come from property taxes.

This order does not provide money unless the other General Fund budget orders are passed.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 200-25/26 Appropriating and Raising Funds for Adult Education for Fiscal Year 2027 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-a M.R.S §8603-a(1) - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order raises the sum of \$3,381,449 for Adult Education for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and \$2,348,933 as the local share with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 201-25/26 To Raise and Appropriate Local Funds for Food Service in the Portland Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order raises and appropriates \$0 for the Food Service Program for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The Portland School Department is authorized to expend any un-expended balances and additional, incidental or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the food service program.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 202A-25/26 Authorizing the Disposition of Any Additional State Subsidy Received for Portland Schools in Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

Disposition of Any Additional State Subsidy Received: In the event that Portland Public Schools receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the City authorizes the Portland Board of Education to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the Portland Board of Education, subject only to approval by the City Council.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**THE CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A FIRST READ ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING (MAY 18, 2026) AND WILL ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT. THE SECOND READ AND PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 2026 AT 5:00 PM.**

The City Council Finance Committee voted on May 14, 2026 to recommend passage of FY27 City Manager's Recommended Budget in the amount of \$363,927,435. Passed (3-0).

**Order 209-25/26 Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Administrative Fees for Fire, Parking, Planning & Urban Development, Parks, Recreation & Facilities, and Public Works - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order authorizes administrative charges in the Fire Department (Outside Detail Fees & Medical Crisis Unit Fees), Parking Division (Elm & Spring Street Garages Daily Maximum Fees), Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department (Aquatics Fees, Athletic Fields Fees, Cemetery Fees, Golf Course Fees, Ice Arena Fees, & Recreation Fees), Planning Fees (Inflationary Increases), and Public Works (Solid Waste Ecard Replacement and Hauler Fees).

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

**Order 210-25/26 Authorizing the City Manager To Enter into Certain Agreements To Implement the Fiscal Year 2027 Human Resources and Certain Fringe Benefits Budgets - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order authorizes the City Manager to enter into standard agreements and amendments to standard agreements with providers of services for Fiscal Year 2027 to implement portions of human resources, medical, workers' compensation, and liability budgets.

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

**Order 211-25/26 Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Self-insured Liability Program - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order establishes the limit of the City's liability as \$400,000 as required by the Maine Tort Claims Act and states the City's commitment to "self-insure" for such liability by approving funds for this purpose.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 212-25/26 Authorizing the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities to Set Fees and Enter Rental Agreements for City Facilities - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order would authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities or their designee to sign rental contracts and set associated fees. This authorization is required annually.

Staff has historically set fees and signed rental agreements for City facilities including

but not limited to Merrill Auditorium, the Portland Exposition Building, Ice Arena, Riverside Golf Course, Portland cemeteries, and Ocean Gateway. These facilities host hundreds of events annually, and fees are determined based on the unique staffing levels and services they require.

The City's Legal Department has created a standard rental agreement. Any changes to the terms of standard agreement, other than pricing, are reviewed by legal prior to being changed.

Venues/programs overseen by this Department are run in a business-like manner and need the flexibility to offer specials and adjust pricing based on market conditions. This order will further reaffirm the practice of these fees being set administratively.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 213-25/26 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into Certain Agreements to Implement Fiscal Year 2027 Health & Human Services Budget - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order authorizes the City Manager to enter into standard agreements and amendments to those standard agreements to receive reimbursement for services by the Health and Human Services Department. In addition, the City enters into agreements with service providers and landlords to provide services for department programs.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 214-25/26 Authorizing the City Manager to Accept Scholarship and Trust Donations and Bequests and Enter into Trust Agreements - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order authorizes the City Manager to accept and appropriate existing and new scholarship trusts and to enter into standard form trust agreements as approved by Corporation Counsel.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 215-25/26 Authorizing the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities to Accept Donations up to \$10,000 for Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department Programs and City Funds - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department receives frequent donations for many of the programs it works on and with, like the Land Bank, the Portland Youth Corps, and the Tree Trust. This order will allow the department director to accept donations as much as \$10,000 without needing to receive approval from the City Council.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 216-25/26 Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Undertake Civil Actions to Collect Delinquent Personal Property Taxes - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This item will give Corporation Counsel a standing authorization to undertake civil actions to collect any delinquent personal property taxes that arise during the course of the fiscal year. Otherwise, it would be necessary for the City Council to specifically authorize each individual legal action. This general authorization will take the place of the case-by-case approach.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage. Staff is recommending this item be postponed to coincide with consideration of the Appropriation Resolve.

**Order 217-25/26 Authorizing Non-Union Wage Adjustment - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This Order authorizes the City Manager to utilize a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for pay adjustments for non-union employees, elected officials, the City Clerk and Corporation Counsel.

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

**Order 218-25/26 Designating Fiscal Year 2027 Funds for Specific Island Services - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The municipal budget includes \$45,000 for use on Peaks Island in addition to the funds used to pay for direct and indirect city services. Pursuant to a request from the Peaks Island Council these funds will be used as follows in FY27:

- Item A: Summer Bike Program Tickets (CBL): \$250
- Item B: Needs-Based PI Resident Tickets (CBL): \$2,500
- Item C: Island Taxi (ITS): \$27,976
- Item D: Island Compost Project: \$2,600
- Item E: PI Council Administrative Expenses: \$1,918
- Item F: Peaks Island Children's Workshop \$9,756

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

**Order 219-25/26 Appropriating \$4,000,000 in Fund Balance - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This order appropriates \$4,000,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to provide tax stabilization and support City Health and Human Services operations during Fiscal Year 2027.

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

**Order 220-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 2, 6, 10, 12, 24, 25, and 28 Re: Various Fee and Other Changes for Fiscal Year 2027 - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This amendment makes adjustments to various portions of the City Code to implement the FY27 budget. This includes various adjustments to Permitting, Fire, Public Works,

and Parking sections, and an extension of the deadline to apply for the Portland Senior Tax Equity Program. All increases would be effective July 1, 2026, the start of Fiscal Year 2027.

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

**Order 221-25/26 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Appropriation Resolve - Sponsored by Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

The Appropriation Resolve contains the Finance Committee's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for general municipal purposes in the amount of \$363,927,435. In addition, it contains the Finance Committee's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for the School Budget of \$167,001,038.

The tax levy based upon the Finance Committee's recommended budget is \$121,710,845 for general municipal purposes and \$135,441,246 for the School Budget.

The Appropriation Resolve also directs the Assessor of Taxes to assess a tax upon all real and personal property liable to be taxed as of April 1, 2026 and sets October 16, 2026 as the tax due date, which may be paid in two installments due October 16, 2026 and on March 19, 2027.

The delinquency rate of interest is set at 8.5% per year, and the abatement rate of interest is set at 4.5% per year.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Order 202B-25/26 Approving Cooperative Agreement Between the City of Portland and the Maine Department of Transportation RE: Improvements to Brighton Avenue - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This project will improve approximately 0.5 miles of Brighton Avenue sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops from William Street to Craigie Street. The City's recommendation is to reconstruct sidewalks to ADA compliance on both sides of Brighton Ave while also upgrading the crosswalks and the bus stops.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 203-25/26 Approving Cooperative Agreement Between the City of Portland and the Maine Department of Transportation RE: Improvements to Forest Avenue - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This project will improve approximately 0.5 miles of Forest Avenue sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops from Morrill Street to Walton Street. The City's recommendation is to reconstruct sidewalks to ADA compliance on both sides of Forest Ave while also upgrading the crosswalks and the bus stops.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 204-25/26 Accepting and Appropriating a \$200 Anonymous Donation to the Portland Police Department for Victim Services - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This is an anonymous donation in the amount of \$200.00 to support Crime Victim Services within the Police Department. Specifically, these funds will be used to enhance the comfort and well-being of crime victims and their families while they are receiving services by providing items such as coffee and other comfort-related amenities that can make a difficult experience more manageable.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 205-25/26 Approving the Golf Cart Lease Agreement with Country Club Enterprises LLC - Sponsored by Danielle P. West, City Manager**

This order approves a Lease Agreement between the City of Portland Country Club Enterprises, LLC to lease 80 Electric Golf Carts, 6 Electric 500 carryall utility carts, 1 gas 501 carryall utility cart, 1 gas 500 carryall cart, and 1 diesel 1500 carryall cart at the City's Riverside Golf Course. This Lease will be effective for a five-year term commencing with the 2026 season and expiring on December 31, 2030, at an annual rate of \$129,342.06.

This item must be read on two separate days. It received its first reading on May 4. To make this item effective immediately, staff is requesting that this item be passed as an emergency to ensure that aging carts are replaced and new carts are in operation before the current agreement expires. Seven affirmative votes are required for passage as an emergency after public comment.

**ORDERS:**

**Order 222-25/26 Setting The Time For Opening and Closing the Polls on June 9, 2026 RE: State and Municipal Elections - Sponsored by Abbey Lombard, City Clerk**

Pursuant to 21-A M.R.S. §626, the polls shall open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 for the Municipal Election.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 223-25/26 Amending Order 161-25/26 To Ratify Fournier Amendment Three Re: Dougherty Field Lighting - Sponsored by the Finance Committee, April Fournier, Chair**

This Order amends Order 161-25/26 to ratify the amendment proposed by Councilor Fournier that reduces new funding for the Congress Square Park project by \$200,000, reallocating those funds to the installation of lighting at the Dougherty Field Skate Park. Although the Council voted on this amendment on April 27, 2026, staff's review of the meeting record indicated that a motion and second were not made before the vote. This

action corrects that procedural error to ensure the legislative record accurately reflects the Council's intent.

Five affirmative votes are required for passage after public comment.

**Order 224-25/26 Amending Order 182-25/26 RE: Clarifying Retroactive Application of Dispersal Requirements for Large Theaters and Performance Halls - Sponsored by Wesley Pelletier, City Councilor**

At its April 27, 2026 meeting, the City Council passed Order 182-25/26 which updated Chapter 14 to require a 750-foot dispersal between theaters with an occupancy of 1,000 or more persons. Although the ordinance approved by Order 182 applies retroactively because of the retroactive application of the large theater moratorium, this amendment adds explicit retroactive application language to the ordinance in order to avoid any doubt about the Council's intent to apply these requirements with the same retroactive effect as that set forth in the moratorium order.

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

**AMENDMENTS:**

**Order 225-25/26 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 28 RE: Tow Rates - Sponsored by the Sustainability and Transportation Committee, Councilor Regina Phillips, Chair**

The Sustainability and Transportation Committee voted 2-1 on April 8, 2026, to refer this item to the City Council.

The regulation of licensing tow operators is governed by Chapter 28 Traffic and Motor Vehicles of the Portland City Code, specifically Article IV Licensing of Tower Operators. The proposed amendments include increasing the maximum radius of tow operators' impound lots from Portland City Hall from 5 to 7 miles, and increasing the following fees: fee per non-accident tow (from \$135 to \$150); fee per accident tow (from \$150 to \$175); fee for any vehicles with dual tires on the rear axle (from \$150 to \$165); and the storage fee per day (from \$40 to \$50). Maximum towing fees were last adjusted by the City in 2022.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**