



Work Study Minutes
Monday, November 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Mike Callis called the meeting to order at 04:02 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Alderman Cole, Alderman Ellis, Alderman Jennings, Vice-Mayor Thompson, Alderman Woodall

Also, Present: Mayor Mike Callis, City Recorder Tracy Kizer, Finance Director Rachel Slusser

Absent: Alderman Hall(arrived at 4:50 PM), Alderman McDowell(arrived at 4:44 PM)

3. Approval of Agenda

No changes made to the agenda.

4. Public Comment Period

- No one spoke

5. Discussion

A. Future of Portland's Public Safety - The mayor turned the meeting over to Fire Chief Thornton and Police Chief Arnold.

Chief Thornton explained the aggressive plan is to have a safer community, more efficient and better quality service, along with reasons for the need of an additional Fire Hall. The floor was opened to Council for questions.

Discussion was held about:

- Size of White House fire department
- Personnel needs.
- If any additional trucks would be needed.
- Budgeted money and additional funding needed.
- Recurring funds vs equipment and gear needs.
- What can be purchased from impact fees.
- If the referendum is passed, what the funds will provide.
- If the referendum can be slated for Public Safety or even a portion.

Mayor Callis advised the council members to have conversations with the public about the need for the sales tax referendum and what it can provide. Also, the Robertson County portion of Portland and most of the other cities in Sumner County are already at 2.75% sales tax.

Discussion was held about the cost associated with annual increases, and ways to fund them.

Chief Arnold presented his needs and discussed the following:

- Personnel needs.
- Vehicle needs and scheduled rotation.
- Step raises and COLA adjustments.

Alderman Woodall expressed his concern about not discussing all the department's needs and looking at the city needs as a whole. Alderman Woodall also expressed he would like to wait to see if the referendum passes before he makes decisions about the future needs.

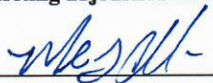
Alderman Cole requested to see historical data going back to 1985 to now, including the population, number of personnel, number of calls and any other important information.

Vice-Mayor Thompson expressed the importance of making small movements every year.

Mayor Callis advised that the most important decision that council has to make is passing the budget.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.


Mike Callis, Mayor


Tracy Kizer, City Recorder