

The Oregonian

How are they doing? Portland City Council members could vote to give themselves a raise

By Andrew Theen
June 08, 2015

UPDATED: This story was updated with a response from Commissioner Steve Novick.

The Portland City Council will vote Wednesday on a proposed 2.1 percent raise for each of its five members.

An emergency ordinance is on the council's agenda this week that would authorize the raise for the council, the elected city auditor and all non-union city employees. If approved, the new pay scale will begin July 1.

The cost-of-living adjustment would amount to a \$2,763 pay increase for Mayor Charlie Hales. Commissioners Dan Saltzman, Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz would receive \$2,327 raises, as would Auditor Mary Hull Caballero.

Last year, Commissioner Steve Novick turned down a cost of living adjustment, leaving him at a base salary of \$103,521. Novick said human resources officials informed him he was unable to add a 2.1 percent raise to his current salary -- meaning he would have to take a nearly \$8,000 raise.

Late Monday, Novick said he hadn't decided where he would jump up to match salaries with his council colleagues. An emergency City Council ordinance must be a unanimous vote to pass. But Novick could step out of the meeting and allow his colleagues to vote and decline the raise and maintain his current salary.

Portland Bureau of Human Resources officials said council members haven't said whether they would accept the increase.

The raises would be in line with cost-of-living adjustments for the city's union workers, such as the District Council of Trade Unions, Portland Police Association, Portland Firefighters Association and other groups.

The city's general fund would cover \$1.4 million of the cumulative raises, with \$1.7 million backed by non-general fund bureaus.

Here are the new salaries, if approved, for the City Council:

Mayor Charlie Hales	\$134,322.76
Commissioner Dan Saltzman	\$113,128.44
Commissioner Nick Fish	\$113,128.44
Commissioner Amanda Fritz	\$113,128.44
Commissioner Steve Novick	\$105,695.55

Portland picks Jeff Baer to head technology bureau

By Brad Schmidt
June 08, 2015

Portland's technology division has a new leader: Jeff Baer, a longtime city employee with past experience directing one of Portland's other governmental fiefdoms.

Baer's appointment, announced Monday, marks the second time in seven months that an ex-director has been selected to again direct a city bureau within the Office of Management & Finance.

Baer previously worked as director for the Bureau of Internal Business Services before leaving in 2012 to take a job for the city of San Diego. Baer returned to Portland about six months later and took a lower-profile gig managing the city's efforts to upgrade public safety technology.

Beginning July 1, Baer will oversee the 200-employee Bureau of Technology Services, the city's IT department, as well as continue his work on the public safety upgrade. Baer replaces Ben Berry, who resigned this spring to focus on his drone business.

"I'm pleased to be joining the BTS team and look forward to being part of an organization that provides such a wide array of critical technology, communications, and information solutions for the City," Baer said in a statement.

Fred Miller, Portland's chief administrator, didn't conduct a formal search or interview for the post. When city officials spoken to outside technology experts to begin considering what they needed in the position, Baer's name kept coming up.

Picking Baer "gives us the opportunity to retain leadership talent, organizationally align the ongoing support for PSSRP systems with the public safety bureaus and BTS, and be poised to achieve the City's immediate key technology priorities," Miller said in a statement.

In November, Miller named Ken Rust as the city's new chief financial officer. Like Baer, Rust also had previously worked as a bureau director -- in Miller's role, as chief administrative officer -- before leaving the city only to return.

Baer's pay wasn't immediately available, but the post pays up to \$160,618 a year.

Portland has 23 bureau director positions, which have seen uncharacteristic turnover in recent months. Beyond Berry, four other directors have recently left or will soon retire.

The Portland Tribune

Salary increases set for City Council, auditor, non-union employees

*By Jim Redden
June 8, 2015*

On Wednesday, Portland's City Council will consider giving elected Portland officials and employees not represented by labor unions a 2.1 percent cost living increase on July 1.

According to the Bureau of Human Resources, the \$3.037 million needed to pay for the increases is included in the city budget the council approved for the next fiscal year. Of that amount, \$1.372 million is from the discretionary general fund and \$1.665 million is in the budgets of non-general fund bureaus.

Click [here](#) to read the city ordinance and memo.

The ordinance describes the proposed salary increases in hourly terms. The salary rate for the mayor will increase to \$64.58 an hour in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The salary rate for city commissioners and the city auditor will increase to \$54.39 an hour.

The salary rate for permanent non-represented employees will increase to a minimum of \$17.94 for a Grade 1 worker to a maximum of \$97.76 for a Grade 17 worker.

And the salary rate for seasonal worker will increase to a minimum of \$9.25 for clerical trainees and community service aides to \$30.81 for sports officials.

According to the bureau's memo, city employees represented by unions will receive 2.1 percent salary increases on July 1: District Council of Trade Unions; City of Portland Professional Employees Association; Portland Police Association; Bureau of Emergency Communications; Recreation Employees (Municipal Employees Local 483); Portland Fire Fighters' Association; and Seasonal Maintenance Workers (Laborer's Local 483). The Portland Police Commanding officers Association and AFSCME Housing are still negotiating their increases.

Daily Journal of Commerce

Zidell Yards move closer to development

*By Beverly Corbell
June 8, 2015*

At its Wednesday meeting, the Portland Development Commission will consider a resolution for development of the Zidell Yards within the North Macadam Urban Renewal Area. The meeting will be at 3 p.m. at 222 N.W. 5th St.

The resolution will authorize a development of 1.5 million square feet of "mixed-use, employment-oriented commercial and residential property" over 33 acres, according to meeting agenda on the PDC website.

If approved, the resolution will authorize PDC executive director Patrick Quinton to enter into a development agreement with ZRZ Realty Company and recommend the Portland City Council approve the agreement. The resolution would also authorize the executive of an intergovernmental agreement with the Portland Bureau of Transportation for up to \$500,000 for the design of improvements to Southwest Bond Avenue.

PDC's investment is estimated to be \$23,700,000 based on availability of tax increment funding, according to the PDC website. The development agreement will also establish the opportunity for the Portland Housing Bureau to invest in affordable housing.

Portland Business Journal

Portland execs castigate Mayor Hales over propane project standoff

*By Wendy Culverwell
June 8, 2015*

Jim Mark didn't hesitate.

When the president of one of the city's most prominent real estate firms was asked to sign a letter asking Portland City Council members to "urge" the mayor to put a controversial propane project on the council's agenda, Mark whipped out his pen.

"It was my pleasure to add my name to it," he said.

So did 32 other business, labor and civic leaders. The group includes the heads of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, Greenbrier Companies, Chown and many more.

The Portland Business Alliance organized the letter after Hales refused to bring the matter of Pembina Pipeline Corp.'s environmental amendment to the full city council for a hearing and potentially a vote. The letter doesn't demand that the project be approved, only that it get an airing before the council.

The Port of Portland needs the amendment so that Pembina can install a pipe between its propane tanks and a marine berth near its Terminal 6 site in North Portland.

The city's planning and sustainability commission recommended the council approve the amendment, with a caveat that Pembina pay \$6.2 million in fees into the special "Portland Carbon Fund." The caveat came after opponents fiercely challenged the project on environmental and safety grounds.

The mayor reversed his support for the project May 7 and to date has refused to bring the recommendation to the full council.

His spokesman said the mayor hasn't had a chance to review the letter.

Mark, president of Melvin Mark Cos., said the standoff is a black-eye for the city's reputation among would-be investors.

"He wouldn't do the courtesy to have a council vote," Mark said. "To me, that was over the top."

"One thing you would expect is for the process to be followed through."

Last Thursday, the city attorney issued a memo saying the council isn't obligated to hold a hearing, but suggested a court could interpret the language in the city's code to say one is expected. That suggested it would be prudent to put the matter on the council's agenda. Even so, the mayor's office said he would not advance the project.

Pembina, based in Calgary, Canada, intends to spend \$500 million to develop a terminal to export Canadian propane to Asia. The project is the largest all-private investment in city history.

The project's opponents include the Climate Action Coalition, which wants a total ban on fossil fuel export infrastructure in the region.

Yet business owners such as David Chown, president of Chown Hardware, have concerns about the way the situation's being handled at City Hall.

Chown plumbing business has no stake in the project, but as a member of the Portland Business Alliance board, he followed the Pembina story with growing concern.

"Pembina to me is kind of a no-brainer," he said. "To me, this is just purely a political decision. To hold jobs and tax dollars hostage over politics is unconscionable."

Vanessa Sturgeon, president of TMT Development, said Portland needs the kinds of jobs the terminal and its construction offers.

"To say we're not going to support an enterprise that is going to hire people that we want to be working is really troubling to me," she said.

The city's critics agree the standoff could have a chilling affect on other businesses interested in operating in Portland — sending the message that rules can be change.

"You see other companies that might be looking to site in Portland take notice of the fact that the process is inconsistent and unreliable," Sturgeon said.

Mark, who said he's embarrassed for the city, fears leaving the environmental amendment hanging without a vote sends the wrong message.

"Just because a politician gets cold feet because there's opposition — loud opposition— it doesn't mean one side gets the opportunity to shout as loud as they can and the public process doesn't take place."

Google Fiber seeks top-level Portland manager. And, no, Google Fiber's not yet confirmed in Portland

*By Andy Giegerich
June 8, 2015*

Those wondering whether Google Fiber will, for certain, plant its flag in Portland received a pretty good clue this week.

Willamette Week reported Monday that Google has posted a listing for an "outside plant manager." The worker would oversee the "Outside Plant Fiber Network" design as well as manage new development, network relocations and network upgrades

The manager would also back "finance metric development, reporting and dashboard report."

Google hasn't yet confirmed it will establish a Portland presence. Lawmakers throughout the state have made overtures to the company to add the super-high-speed Internet offering to various Oregon jurisdictions.