

**COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held in-person in the Council Chambers,
as well as virtually (via ZOOM),*

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Scott Whiting, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain, Doris Ortiz and Marc Lessard

Martin Grohman arrived at 6:20 p.m.

The Council, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Recognition: Police Chief Roger P. Beaupre – 50 Years of Service

Mayor Casavant presented Police Chief Roger P. Beaupre a plaque in honor of his recent 50th Anniversary of working at the Biddeford Police Department. Mayor Casavant recognized Chief Beaupre's institutional knowledge, continuing innovation and true leadership during his tenure.

Senator Susan Deschambault presented Chief Beaupre with a *Legislative Sentiment* signed by Speaker of the House (and District 11 House Representative for Biddeford) Ryan Fecteau and Senate President Troy Jackson, as well as District 12 Representative Erin Sheehan, District 9 Representative Tracie Gere and Senator Susan Deschambault.

Recognition: Out-Going City Councilors from 2019-2021 Term

John McCurry, Jr and Stephen St. Cyr were in attendance and were presented with a commemorative chair as a token of appreciation for their service as City Councilors. Michael Ready and Ashanti Williams were not able to attend, but will be given chairs as well.

{Martin Grohman arrived}

Public Hearing: Liquor License Application – Mick's Sports Bar, LLC

Mayor Casavant opened the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:20 p.m.

Consideration of Liquor License: Mick's Sports Bar, LLC

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to recommend issuance of a State Liquor License to Mick's Sports Bar, LLC.

Vote: Unanimous.

Consideration of Minutes: November 16, 2021

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Second Reading:

{For a copy of the ordinance amendment and first reading, see the Council Meeting minutes of November 16, 2021.}

2021.119) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-59-Snow emergency parking ban/Update Parking Lots – Remove Sullivan Street Parking Lot

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the second reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: Unanimous.

2021.122 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED that the City Council of the City of Biddeford nominate and elect a Council President.

2021.123 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby adopt Roberts Rules of Order.

2021.124 IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby adopt Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Rules of the Council.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Committee-of-the-Whole for discussion purposes.
Vote: Unanimous.

Rule 1: Duties and powers of Mayor or Presiding Officer.

Rule 2: Rights and duties of members.

- NOTICE: Under Maine's Freedom of Access (Right to Know) Law, documents, including emails, in the possession of public officials about City business are classified as public records. This means if anyone asks to see them, we are required to provide them. There are very few exceptions. We welcome citizens' comments and want to hear from our constituents, but please keep in mind that what you write in an email is not private and could show up in ~~one of the media-media local newspapers.~~

Rule 3. Proceedings and debates.

h. ~~The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question now be put." If A motion to previous question~~ shall only ~~take effect when approved~~ be admitted when demanded by a majority of the Council; and until it is decided, shall preclude all amendments and further debate of the main question.

p. Any public comment on any Council order, resolve or ordinance, when allowed by state law or the Council shall not exceed three minutes per individual speaker. Such persons shall be permitted to speak only once on an item and shall confine their remarks to the merits of the order, resolve, amendment or ordinance before the Council.

q. Procedure for addressing the Council on agenda items or during the municipal officers meeting:

(1) No public comment shall be permitted on the following agenda items: personnel matters, informational reports or communications from boards and commissions, staff or other organizations or entities; appointments and administrative action implementing prior action to the Council where that prior action had permitted public comment.

(2) On items other than those set forth in Subsection (1) above, public comment shall be permitted only once prior to final Council action. Except as specifically decided by the Council, such public comment shall occur at the advertised public hearing or at the first and second reading of such item if such item requires two readings. The public also may address the Council on proposed amendments at either the first or second reading.

Rule 5: Committees.

(4) Policy Committee. The Policy Committee shall be responsible for establishing and recommending ordinance language, Code revisions, (except for changes delegated to the Parking Authority under Section 42 8 Chapter 42, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, and all other matters and ordinances that relate to Public Safety) and City policy to the full Council. The Policy Committee shall coordinate with the City Planner and the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the amendment, establishment and/or update of the City's land use ordinances.

Rule 6: Rules.

b. No rules or orders of the Council shall be repealed or amended unless the majority of the members of the Council concur therein.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move out of Committee-of-the-Whole.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to accept all the proposed amendments, as discussed and agreed upon during Committee-of-the-Whole; including in **Rule 2: Rights and duties of members. (o.)** changing "one of the local newspapers" to "the media."

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on Rules of the Council, as amended: Unanimous.

2021.125 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that Mayor Casavant's appointment of Keith R. Jacques and the firm of Woodman Edmands Smith Danylik, Austin & Jacques, P.A., as City Solicitor, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Biddeford be confirmed.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.126 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**

BE IT ORDERED, that Mayor Alan Casavant's appointment of William Emhiser to the Finance Committee be confirmed.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.127 IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021
BE IT ORDERED, that the Council President's appointment to the Finance Committee, Marc Lessard, be confirmed.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to confirm Councilor Marc Lessard as the Council President's appointment to the Finance Committee.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.128 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that Alan Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford is hereby authorized to create and appoint members to an ***Affordable Housing Committee*** for the purpose of gathering information, conducting hearings and recommending a plan of action for the City to deal with housing issues, including affordable housing units.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
5/4; Councilors Lessard, Clearwater, Mills and Whiting opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Grohman, Belanger, LaFountain and Ortiz in favor.
Motion carries.

2021.129 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to purchase one (1) 2022 John-Deere Backhoe-Loader, as per bid of November 9, 2021 (the “Equipment”) from United Construction & Forestry (the “Vendor”) and may pay the Vendor an amount not to exceed \$115,500.00 (which includes an allowance of \$26,000 for a trade-in) for the Equipment as follows:

1. The City of Biddeford expects to incur debt to reimburse expenditures to pay the cost of the Equipment;
2. The City of Biddeford reasonably expects that the maximum principal amount of the debt, including for reimbursement purposes, is \$115,500.00;
3. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to enter into a lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement for the Equipment provided that (a) the principal amount of such agreement will not exceed \$115,500.00, (b) the term of such agreement will not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) months and (c) any obligation of the City of Biddeford to make lease or loan payments pursuant to such agreement is subject to annual appropriation by the City Council of the City of Biddeford;
4. The City Manager is authorized to advance money from the General Fund of the City for payment of the costs of the Equipment; and
5. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, deliver and cause to be performed, and to approve, any and all agreements, instruments, certificates and other documents, and to grant security interests in the Equipment, upon such terms, conditions, limitations and undertakings, which the City Manager determines are necessary and proper for the acquisition and financing of the Equipment, provided that any lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement will be countersigned by both the Mayor and the Treasurer of the City of Biddeford. Without limiting the foregoing, the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment, is authorized to sell, transfer, trade in or otherwise dispose of any equipment, which the City Manager determines is no longer useful to the City of Biddeford.

NOTE: The lease-purchase of this item is included in the FY22 CIP budget line 21204-60603.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.130 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....DECEMBER 21, 2021**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to purchase one (1) 2022 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck, as per bid of December 15, 2021 (the “Equipment”) from Arundel Ford (the “Vendor”) and may pay the Vendor an amount not to exceed \$43,630.00 for the Equipment as follows:

1. The City of Biddeford expects to incur debt to reimburse expenditures to pay the cost of the Equipment;
2. The City of Biddeford reasonably expects that the maximum principal amount of the debt, including for reimbursement purposes, is \$43,630.00;
3. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to enter into a lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement for the Equipment provided that (a) the principal amount of such agreement will not exceed \$43,630.00, (b) the term of such agreement will not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) months and (c) any obligation of the City of Biddeford to make lease or loan payments pursuant to such agreement is subject to annual appropriation by the City Council of the City of Biddeford;
4. The City Manager is authorized to advance money from the General Fund of the City for payment of the costs of the Equipment; and
5. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, deliver and cause to be performed, and to approve, any and all agreements, instruments, certificates and other documents, and to grant security interests in the Equipment, upon such terms, conditions, limitations and undertakings, which the City Manager determines are necessary and proper for the acquisition and financing of the Equipment, provided that any lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement will be countersigned by both the Mayor and the Treasurer of the City of Biddeford. Without limiting the foregoing, the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment, is authorized to sell, transfer, trade in or otherwise dispose of any equipment, which the City Manager determines is no longer useful to the City of Biddeford.

NOTE: The lease-purchase of this item is included in Budget Line 21204-60900 – Vehicle Capital Replacement.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.131 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to purchase one (1) 2022 Freightliner 10-wheel truck equipped with plow gear, as per bid of November 9, 2021 (the “Equipment”) from Freightliner of Maine (the “Vendor”) and may pay the Vendor an amount not to exceed \$208,900 (which includes an allowance of \$38,000 for a trade-in) for the Equipment as follows:

1. The City of Biddeford expects to incur debt to reimburse expenditures to pay the cost of the Equipment;
2. The City of Biddeford reasonably expects that the maximum principal amount of the debt, including for reimbursement purposes, is \$208,900.00;
3. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to enter into a lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement for the Equipment provided that (a) the principal amount of such agreement will not exceed \$208,900.00, (b) the term of such agreement will not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) months and (c) any obligation of the City of Biddeford to make lease or loan payments pursuant to such agreement is subject to annual appropriation by the City Council of the City of Biddeford;
4. The City Manager is authorized to advance money from the General Fund of the City for payment of the costs of the Equipment; and
5. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, deliver and cause to be performed, and to approve, any and all agreements, instruments, certificates and other documents, and to grant security interests in the Equipment, upon such terms, conditions, limitations and undertakings, which the City Manager determines are necessary and proper for the acquisition and financing of the Equipment, provided that any lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement will be countersigned by both the Mayor and the Treasurer of the City of Biddeford. Without limiting the foregoing, the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment, is authorized to sell, transfer, trade in or

otherwise dispose of any equipment, which the City Manager determines is no longer useful to the City of Biddeford.

NOTE: The lease-purchase of this item is included in the FY22 CIP budget line 21204-60603.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.132 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Biddeford that the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42, MOTOR VEHICLES & TRAFFIC, **Section 42-66 Beach permit parking regulations enumerated, Sub-section (2) & (3).** is amended by adding or ~~deleting~~ to read as follows:

(2) For the purpose of this section, the word “resident” shall meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Person who pays real estate property taxes to the City;
- b. Person who is a registered voter in the City;
- c. Person who can provide a vehicle registered both in the City and the State of Maine. All residents of the City may obtain parking permits for compliance with this Section for a fee of ~~-\$28~~ **\$30** for the first vehicle, \$15 per additional vehicle registered at the same address, \$15 for residents 65 and older, payable to the City Clerk. Proof of eligibility will be the burden of the applicant.

(3) Persons ineligible under Subsection (2) may obtain a parking permit to be in compliance with this section for a fee of ~~\$153~~ **\$155** for a season permit; ~~\$79~~ **\$82** for a seven-day permit; ~~\$46~~ **\$49** for a three-day permit; and ~~\$22~~ **\$25** for a one-day permit. The seven-day and three-day permits are valid in consecutive days only, and are not transferable from vehicle to another.

NOTE: This ordinance amendment was considered at the October 12, 2021 Policy Committee meeting and was voted unanimously to recommend passage by the Council.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the first reading of the ordinance amendment.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Lessard to table the ordinance amendment and send it back to the Policy Committee for further review.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.133 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL. DECEMBER 21,2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the expenditure for the Fire Protection System at the J. Richard Martin Community Center Sprinkler Room in an amount not to exceed \$23,200.00, as per bid on November 19, 2021, from Eastern Fire.

NOTE: Funds for this project to come from The Community Center Improvement Fund 22002-60905.

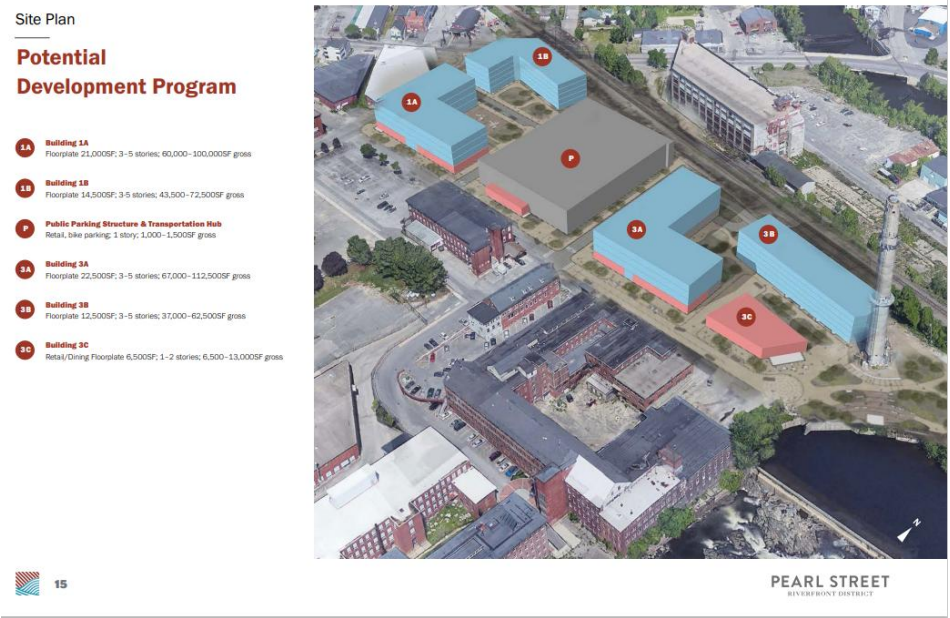
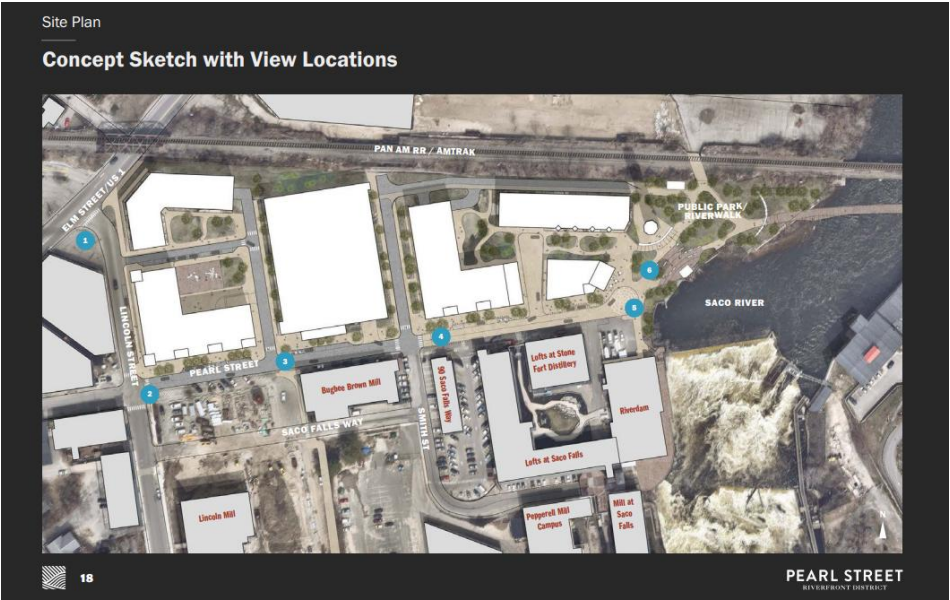
Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to grant the order.
Vote: 8/1; Councilor Lessard opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain and Ortiz in favor.
Motion carries.

2021.134 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council approves the Preliminary Concept Plan submitted by 3-Lincoln LLC (the Fathom Company and partners) for the redevelopment of the so-called “MERC site” at 3 Lincoln Street, substantially in the form represented in the attached concept plan and consistent with the Master Plan Development Agreement, signed on November 13, 2020 and subject to the following conditions:

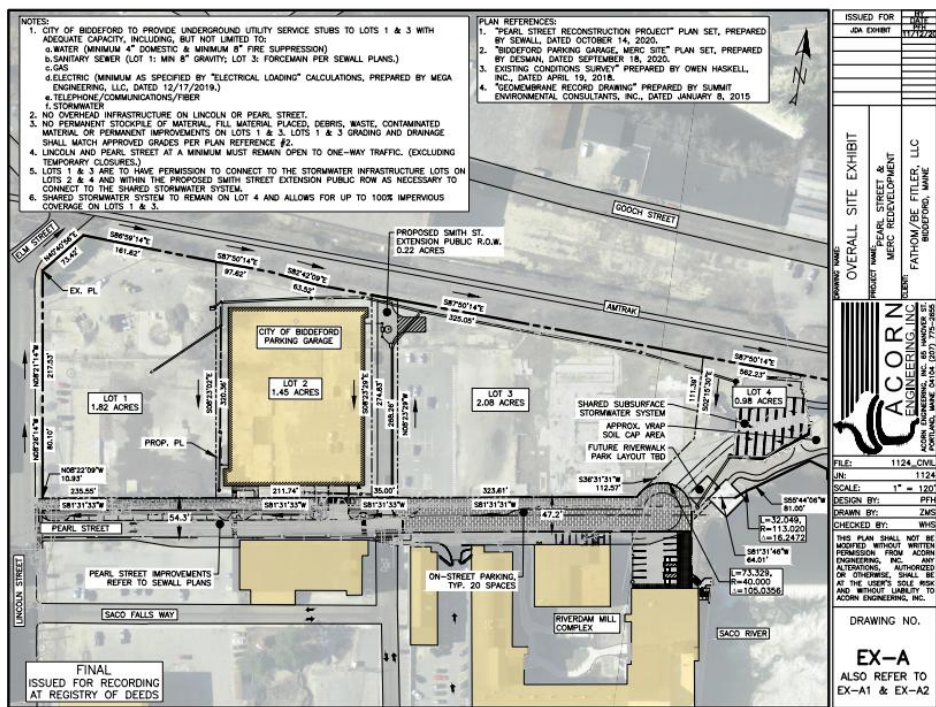
1. *The City of Biddeford will coordinate the DEP Shoreland Zoning amendment to allow the density proposed for the Pearl Street Riverfront District. This approval will allow the Site Plan Application for Lot 3 to be submitted and avoid further delays to the permitting process due to the existing amendment.*

2. The timeline outlined in the Master Plan Development Agreement (Section 1.3 Project Schedule) will not start until the DEP Shoreland Zoning amendment is approved to allow the density proposed for the Pearl Street Riverfront District in the Preliminary Concept Plan and Lot 3 Site Plan Application.

Preliminary Concept Plan:



Survey of Property



Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.135 IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...DECEMBER 21, 2021
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC JUSTIFICATION FOR EXPENDING ARPA
FUNDS FOR COVID-19 PREMIUM PAY ABOVE 150% OF STATE OR COUNTY
MEDIAN PAY

WHEREAS, the City Council of Biddeford, Maine, has been awarded U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (the Funds); and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditional of the award specify certain eligible uses for the Funds including but not limited to premium pay for eligible workers; and

WHEREAS, “eligible workers” means *workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including health care; emergency response; sanitation, disinfection, and cleaning work; maintenance work; grocery stores, restaurants, food production, and food delivery; pharmacy; biomedical research; behavioral health work; medical testing and diagnostics; home and community-based health care or assistance with activities of daily living; family or child care; social services work; public health work; vital services to Tribes; any work performed by an employee of a State, local, or Tribal government; educational work, school nutrition work, and other work required to operate a school facility; laundry work; elections work; solid waste or hazardous materials management,*

response, and cleanup work; **work requiring physical interaction with patients**; dental care work; transportation and warehousing; work at hotel and commercial lodging facilities that are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment; work in a mortuary; work in critical clinical research, development, and testing necessary for COVID-19 response. (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the City of Biddeford agrees with the concept of premium pay for all employees required to work during the State of Emergency as designated by the Governor of Maine and has made such payments retroactively in the amount of \$2,250 or portion thereof based on hours worked; and

WHEREAS, certain persons employed by the City of Biddeford fall within one or more categories as eligible workers, including but not limited to personnel at the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department (solid waste, street maintenance, and wastewater); and

WHEREAS, a local government's premium pay program should target low- and moderate-income employees, may not exceed \$13.00/hr or a maximum of \$25,000 and if premium pay increases an eligible employee's total wages and remuneration above 150% of the State's average annual wage for all occupations or for the county's average annual wage, whichever is higher, the local government is required to provide an additional written justification to US Treasury and the public on how granting premium pay to these employees responds to eligible workers performing essential work; and

WHEREAS, the higher of 150% of the state or county average annual wage is the county wage of \$77,679 (at 150%); and

WHEREAS, the compensation for certain employees classified as eligible workers exceeds 150% of the county annual average wage with premium pay; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biddeford intends to draw upon the Funds for premium pay to these employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Biddeford City Council and Mayor publicly state that premium pay for eligible employees above 150% of the average annual wage for York County (the threshold) is responsive to these employees performing essential work during the public health emergency as follows:

1. Employees of the City of Biddeford with compensation above 150% of the threshold faced the same Coronavirus exposures in the workplace as their counterparts receiving premium pay with total compensation less than 150% of the threshold.
2. Employees of the City of Biddeford with compensation above 150% of the threshold faced the same Coronavirus-related personal expenses as their counterparts receiving premium pay with total compensation less than 150% of the threshold.
3. As employment is a choice, the absence of the City employees receiving premium pay above 150% of the threshold from the workforce would have caused a significant interruption in critical municipal services during the pandemic.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the Resolution.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.136 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to sell by sealed bid process the following tax acquired properties:

~~1. 120 Proctor Rd, Parcel #0030170080~~

- ~~2. 312 Guinea Rd, Parcel #0800010000~~
- ~~3. Pool St (Off of), Parcel #0050370000~~
- ~~4. 680 Pool St, Parcel #0100470000~~
5. 30 Old Alfred Rd, Parcel #0020630000

The City Council hereby directs that the City hold title to the below listed properties and directs the Tax Assessor to revise the property tax cards to list the City of Biddeford as record owner of the properties. The Council further directs that unpaid taxes, interest and any associated lien fees on the properties be written off. The properties will now be listed as tax acquired property as an asset:

1. 49 Center St, Parcel #0381680000
2. 42 Center St, Parcel #0381510000
3. 4 Fortunes Rock Rd, Parcel #0630460000

NOTE: The Finance Committee reviewed this item on November 16, 2021 and voted to recommend it to the City Council for approval.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to amend the order as follows:
To authorize the City Manager to enter into the payment arrangements as requested for the listed properties below and to further authorize the City Manager to place the property up for sealed bid process if the terms and conditions of the payment arrangement are not kept:

- 312 Guinea Road, Map 80, Lot 1
- 680 Pool Street, Map 10, Lot 47
- Pool Street (Off of), Map 5, Lot 37

Vote on amendment: Unanimous.

Vote on Order, as amended: Unanimous.

2021.137 IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to sign a Settlement Agreement in the Opioid Litigation.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to grant the order.
 Vote: 7/2; Councilors Lessard and Mills opposed.
 Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain and Ortiz in favor.
 Motion carries.

2021.138) Discussion & Approval/Council Options for South Street Village Development with Hidden Hills, LLC

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Committee-of-the-Whole.
 Vote: Unanimous.

Councilor Lessard provided some background: the South Street Village Project has been proposed as 200 mobile home park to be placed on the west side of the Maine Turnpike. This type of project requires very little review; while any other type of development would require more money and more of a process. He argued that rather than mobile homes, the City needs first homes, second homes and affordable homes. He suggested that the Council ask Staff to meet with the Developers to find out what they need to develop beyond mobile homes and come back to the Council in February with other options.

Councilor Clearwater agreed with the idea of approaching the Developer and finding out what would need to be done to go in a different direction than mobile homes.

Mayor Casavant would like to have a greater exploration of how we can assist the Developer to better achieve the best use of this land.

Councilor Mills is not supportive of the current direction that the project is going in.

Councilor Emhiser is also supportive of asking Staff to talk with the Developer to come up with other alternatives.

Councilor Belanger agrees that the City should be moving towards helping the Developer to find a better development opportunity and to investigate other possibilities.

The general consensus of the Council is to ask Staff to go back to the Developer to determine what other options there may be other than a mobile home park.

City Manager Jim Bennett and/or his designee will meet with Developers; find out what their choice is; come back to Council and get approval; then Staff would get together to see how to make that happen and recommend the best way to get to the “finish line.” It would then come to Council as a recommendation to the Planning Board, who would have a Public Hearing and come back to Council with a final recommendation. Council would then have two readings on any proposed zoning change.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move out of Committee-of-the-Whole.
Vote: Unanimous.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..DECEMBER 21, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that I, Alan Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint the following Councilors to the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Norman Belanger, Chair
William Emhiser
Scott Whiting
Doris Ortiz

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following Councilors are appointed to the POLICY COMMITTEE:

Norman Belanger, Chair
Liam Lafountain
Amy Clearwater

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following Councilors are appointed to the CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Marc Lessard, Chair
Martin Grohman
Bobby Mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following Councilors are appointed to the DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE:

Doris Ortiz
Amy Clearwater
Scott Whiting
Bobby Mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following Councilors are appointed to the following City Committees/Commission:

RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION:

Doris Ortiz
Liam Lafountain

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION:

William Emhiser

JOINT BIDDEFORD-SACO COMMITTEE:

Martin Grohman

Marc Lessard

MAINE WATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
Scott Whiting

BIDDEFORD ARENA BOARD:
Liam Lafountain

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:
William Emhiser

TRI-CITY TRANSIT (SHUTTLEBUS):
Doris Ortiz

CABLE T.V. COMMITTEE:
Bobby Mills

BIDDEFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY:
Amy Clearwater

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FAIR HEARING BOARD:
Amy Clearwater
Liam Lafountain

BIDDEFORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION:
Scott Whiting

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIAISON:
Martin Grohman

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to confirm the appointments.
Vote: Unanimous.

- Citizen Committee/Commission/Board Appointments:**
- **Marc Malon, II...Recycling & Waste Management Commission CHAIR**
 - **Roger Cantara...Biddeford Fire Advisory Committee**
 - **Jessica Johnson...Board of Assessment Review**
 - **Richard Rhames...Cable TV Committee**
 - **Daniel P. Boucher...Capital Projects Committee**
 - **John Hennedy...Harbor Commission**
 - **Alexa Plotkin...Planning Board, Associate Member**
 - **Renee O'Neil...Policy Committee**
 - **Leo Letendre...Project Canopy Committee**
 - **Richard "Chico" Potvin...Recycling & Waste Management Commission**
 - **Peter Bouthillette...Shellfish Conservation Committee**
 - **Sean Tarpey...Zoning Board of Appeals**

All appointments were motioned by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Lessard to be confirmed.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
A few citizens addressed their comments to the Council.

City Manager Report:

City Manager James Bennett had the following items:

- 1) Update on RiverWalk Wall Collapse: the coffer dam has been constructed. The Engineers are now working to determine what caused the collapse and what options the City has moving forward. Once there is a recommendation, it will be brought to Council for approval. There has been some discussion amongst federal agencies, and it appears that FEMA may make the most sense for funding. \$440,000 has been spent on this project, to date. The Council will be kept updated as new information is forthcoming.

- 2) State Property Tax Deferment Program has been instituted and is officially in effect. He encouraged citizens who feel they may be eligible to contact the Assessor's Office to apply.
- 3) The Public Works Department has a Grader down and in need of repair. Jim noted that he has okayed the expenditure for the repair as an emergency since this is a piece of equipment used for snow removal.
- 4) He thanked all the City Volunteers and City Employees who worked through a very tough year. He especially thanked the Citizens for their support and their shows of appreciation throughout the year that have been directed towards our Employees.

Other Business:

Councilor Lessard – thanked the entire City Staff for all that they have done in a difficult couple of years. Unfortunately, he does not think there is much relief in sight. The upcoming budget is going to be very hard and he cautioned that we all need to remember to look at the budget from both the expenditures and revenues points of view.

The prior Council had great decorum and respectful debates, and he hopes that continues with this new Council.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Councilor Clearwater – welcomed all the new Councilors.

She noted that goal setting is less than a month away and she has been talking with constituents and has encouraged them to reach out and share what they feel should be Council goals over the next couple of years.

She thanked City Staff for another wonderful year of dedicated service.

Councilor Mills – wished Happy Holidays to everyone. He is happy to be back on the Council. He announced that he is also the York County Treasurer so may have to abstain from certain votes.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor Belanger thanked his fellow Councilors for electing him Council President. For the new Councilors, he encouraged them not to worry about asking stupid questions – he jokingly stated that he has set that bar pretty low!!

He reminded everyone that the requirement to use PAYT bags will not be in effect during Christmas week and encouraged folks to check the City's website for what is recyclable and not.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant shared that there was a WinterFest meeting yesterday and plans are underway for another fun-filled weekend. The event is planned for the first weekend in February.

He met with the new Mill owners last week and was able to confirm that rent increases are planned for an average of 5%, and not the substantial hike that the media was reporting. The new Mill owners promised to work with the City in an effort of transparency. They plan to come to a future Council Meeting to introduce themselves.

He shared that City Manager Jim Bennett was chosen as the next President of MMA, which is a huge role for him personally, as well as for the City. He thanked Jim for volunteering for this position.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays; and encouraged everyone to carry the spirit of holidays throughout the coming year, with a focus on being kind and helping each other.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 8:04 p.m.

Attest by:_____ **Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk**