

City of Biddeford
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Council President John McCurry.

Present: Chair, Council President John McCurry, Mayor Alan Casavant, Councilor Steven St. Cyr, City Manager Jim Bennett, Finance Director Cheryl Fournier, City Clerk Carmen Morris, and City Solicitor Keith Jacques.

Excused: Councilor Ready.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr to approve the Minutes of November 9, 2017, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

The expenditure warrant was available for review and signature.

Discussion/Approval

Consideration of Sewer Abatement: DJM Enterprises, LLC - 196 Elm Street

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr to remove the item from the table, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

The Chair opened the Appeal Hearing.

Property owner, Deborah Miles explained she submitted a request for abatement in writing. She feels the sewer billing was done unfairly.

Motion by Mayor Casavant to deny the abatement request, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Councilor St. Cyr noted the only role of the Committee is to make a determination whether Wastewater did their job not to determine if the amount is appropriate.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Sewer Abatement: Phoenix Management - 1 Summer Street & 87 Alfred Street

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr to remove the item from the table, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

The Chair opened the Appeal Hearing.

Aaron Bateman President of Phoenix Management is present to affirm the decision of the Wastewater Management Commission and to pay the reduced amount of \$53,829.50.

City Solicitor, Keith Jacques, explained the minutes from the Commission had a motion to reduce the sewer bill to \$53,829.50 and Phoenix would pay \$448.50 a month toward the balance and a payment bond would be put forward for that amount.

Motion by Mayor Casavant to affirm the Wastewater Management Commission recommendation for the payment of \$53,829.50, paying \$448.50 a month to be paid off over the course of 10 years, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Councilor St. Cyr noted the amount reduced by half but sees no basis for it.

City Solicitor Jacques explained one issue is an amount going back to 1998 and half brought it back 8 years.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 opposed (Councilor St. Cyr opposed).

Motion carried 2-1.

Approval for Ice Arena to secure funding for replacement of Refrigeration Plant

City Manager, James Bennett explained the City owns the Arena and we sign a lease with the non-profit that runs it. He noted if the refrigeration plant is not replaced, the Arena will not be able to make ice and cannot operate.

Finance Director, Cheryl Fournier gave an overview of the funding and how the Arena Association will be repaying the Revenue Obligation.

Motion by Mayor Casavant to give the approval for the York County Arena Association to secure funds for the replacement of the refrigeration plant, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

Other Business

Councilor St. Cyr asked if there is an update on the CAFER report.

Finance Director Fournier stated she is close to turning it over to the auditors.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor St. Cyr, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned at 5:32 pm.