

**COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2020**

*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually (via ZOOM),
and was live streamed on the City's website*

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

Roll Call: William Emhiser, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

Adjustment to the Agenda:

- Move Executive Session from end of meeting to during Order 2020.99

Proclamation: Extra Mile Day – November 1, 2020

Mayor Casavant read the Proclamation.

Consideration of Minutes: **October 6, 2020; October 13, 2020**

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the October 6, 2020 minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the October 13, 2020 minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Second Reading:

{For a copy of the ordinance amendment and first reading, see the Council Meeting minutes of October 6, 2020}

2020.83) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-95-Four-way Stop Intersections/Add Main Street, Lincoln & Adams Street

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

Vote: 7/2; Councilors McCurry and Lessard opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz in favor.

Motion carries.

Orders of the Day:

2020.98

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....OCTOBER 20, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to purchase one (1) 2021 Dodge 5500 ambulance as per bid of October 9, 2020 (the "Equipment") from Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles.(the "Vendor") and may pay the Vendor an amount not to exceed \$282,832.00 (before discounts valued at \$11,000.00) 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 \$282,832.00;
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 \$282,832.00, (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 Finance Committee will review this item on October 20, 2020 and vote to recommend it to the City Council for approval. The purchase of this Ambulance is included in the FY/21 budget line 21204-60603 as a lease.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the order.
Vote: 6/3; Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr and Lessard opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz in favor.
Motion carries.

2020.99 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 20, 2020**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby direct the City Manager to enter into a Terms of Development Agreement for the redevelopment of the Saco-Lowell Building (59 Elm Street), with Port Properties Management.

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

Motion by Councilor Emhiser, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session, per 1 MSRA 404(6)(C)...Real Estate Matter.
Vote: 8/1; Councilor McCurry opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.
Motion carries. Time: 6:13 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to move out of Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 6:44 p.m.

Vote on order: 5/4; Councilors Ortiz, McCurry, Ready and Quattrone opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Lessard in favor.
Motion carries.

2020.100 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 20, 2020**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute a land conveyance agreement with E & R Development Corporation (or official designee) where, in exchange for the City's conveyance of approximately 4.2+- acres, E & R Development will convey to the City 60+- acres in accordance with the attached plan titled, "Proposed Land Conveyances".

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute and accept a land conveyance agreement with Mr. Gervais Dube (or official designee) where, Mr. Dube shall convey to the City 42.7+- acres in accordance with the attached plan titled, "Proposed Land Conveyances" in exchange for the cost of a property appraisal.

Funding for this project (property appraisal) shall be 22002-60463 Park Improvements.

NOTE: This item will be considered at the October 20, 2020 Finance Committee meeting.

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

2020.101 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 20, 2020**
BE IT ORDERED, that the regularly scheduled Council Meeting of November 3, 2020 be postponed to Tuesday, November 17, 2020 due to the State General and Municipal Referendum Election on November 3, 2020.

NOTE: If approved, there would be one Council Meeting in November. A Special Council Meeting may be called if necessary.

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

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to amend the order that the regularly scheduled November 3, 2020 Council Meeting be moved to Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020.

Vote: 4/5; Councilors McCurry, Lessard, Ready and Quattrone in favor.
Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Ortiz opposed.
Motion to amend fails.

Vote on order as written: 5/4; Councilors McCurry, Lessard, Ready and Quattrone opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Ortiz in favor.
Motion carries.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...OCTOBER 20, 2020
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

Christa St. Cyr
116 Main Street, Suite 201
Ward 5

to the *Downtown Development Commission*, replacing Jon Phillips, for a term to expire in December 2021.

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

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...OCTOBER 20, 2020
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

Julie Larry
25 Dartmouth Street
Ward 7

to the *Historic Preservation Commission*, replacing Steven Burr, for a term to expire in December 2020.

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

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 20, 2020
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

Erin Ware
24 W. Myrtle Street, Apt. B
Ward 5

to the *Historic Preservation Commission*, for a term to expire in December 2023.

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

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
There were no public comments.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett asked City Clerk, Carmen Morris to give an update on the absentee voting process and upcoming changes in operation.

Carmen explained that this will be the final week that voter registration and absentee voting will be done out of the first floor hallway in City Hall. Starting on Monday, Oct. 26th, voter registration and absentee voting will revert back to the City Clerk's Office. Beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 27th, the early processing of absentee ballots will start. Early processing will go from Oct. 27th to Nov. 1st and will take place in the Council Chambers. The ballot drop box will remain available, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Carmen also announced that the City Clerk's Office will be offering extended hours for voter registration and absentee voting on Thursday, Oct. 22nd until 7:00pm, and also on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 8am to noon.

Jim informed the Council that at the next Council Meeting, Staff will be bringing forward suggestions to keep extended licensing processes in place for local business establishments as we moving into the winter season.

Other Business:

Councilor McCurry: had the following comments:

- He has spoken with the Mayor and City Manager and all agree that the City’s website needs to be refreshed and made easier to navigate.
- He asked if anything has been determined in regards to the Acorn Street property. Jim answered that Staff is working on it and will likely have something for the next council meeting.
- He asked where Staff is at in the process for the financing of the public safety radio system upgrade. Jim answered that this item is scheduled to be ready for the next council meeting.
- He noted that the Heart of Biddeford is hosting a trick or treating event at one of the schools this year and he asked if the City has had any input in the event. Jim answered that the City does not typically get involved in Halloween activities. He went on to say that the City does plan to take the normal precautions by posting law enforcement in known high traffic areas on Halloween night.

Councilor Emhiser: shared that the Downtown Development Commission has reviewed plans from Richardson Associates for the design of the park on Pearl Street. The DDC will soon be asking for public input on the proposed designs.

Councilor Clearwater: provided details for the upcoming Heart of Biddeford Halloween event. The *Creepy Crawl* will take place at the Biddeford Middle School from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. The event is designed to be drive-through style where folks will stay in their vehicles and drive through creepy scenes/setups and at the end, children will receive a pre-made bag of candy.

Councilor Belanger: encouraged voters to get out and vote early; and in doing so, help to keep our poll workers safe. He went on to offer a huge thank you to the City Clerk and her Staff for all that they are doing during this busy time.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant also thanked the City Clerk and her team for all their work during this election season.

Mayor Casavant shared his worry about the downtown businesses with the upcoming colder months and if and how they will be able to survive. He urges that the City needs to figure out ways to keep folks coming to the downtown, even during the colder months.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 8:03 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk

