

**COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2022**

{The meeting was held in a hybrid model – in person and via Zoom}

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

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Scott Whiting, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard.
Martin Grohman joined the meeting at 6:35pm

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

No Adjustments to the Agenda

Proclamation: Support of Extra Mile Day, November 1, 2022

Mayor Casavant read the following Proclamation.

Biddeford is a community which acknowledges that a special vibrancy exists within the entire community when its individual citizens collectively “go the extra mile” in personal effort, volunteerism, and service; and

WHEREAS, Biddeford is a community which encourages its citizens to maximize their personal contribution to the community by giving of themselves wholeheartedly and with total effort, commitment and conviction to their individual ambitions, family, friends and community; and

WHEREAS, Biddeford is a community which chooses to shine a light on and celebrate individuals and organizations within its community who “go the extra mile” in order to make a difference and lift up fellow members of their community; and

WHEREAS, Biddeford acknowledges the mission of Extra Mile America to create 550 Extra Mile cities in America and is proud to support “Extra Mile Day” on November 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of Biddeford do hereby proclaim November 1, 2022 to be **Extra Mile Day**. I urge each individual in the community to take time on this day to not only “go the extra mile” in his or her own life, but to also acknowledge all those who are inspirational in their efforts and commitment to make their organizations, families, community, country, or world a better place.

Presentation: York County Commissioners’ Recommended Use of ARPA Funds

Presented by Commissioner Richard Dutremble

Commissioner Dutremble read the cover letter to the York County Commissioners’ Presentation on ARPA Fund Recommendations, which can be found on the City’s website.

Commissioner Dutremble answered a few questions from the Council.

Public Addressing the Council... (3 minute limit per speaker for up to 15 minutes)
Three citizen addressed the Council.

Consideration of Minutes: **October 4, 2022**

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to accept the minutes as printed.
Vote: Unanimous

Second Reading:

2022.83) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicle & Traffic, Section 42-90. No Parking/Add on St. Joseph Street

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Whiting.
Vote: Unanimous

2022.84) Amendment/Ch. 58, Solid Waste, Section 58-7. Regulated Activities and Administration/Add Language for Noncompliance of Recycling Program

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Whiting.
One public comment

Vote: 7/1; Councilor Lessard Opposed
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Mills, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Motion carries.

Orders of the Day:

2022.86) Approval/Allocation of Undesignated ARPA Funds

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.
Chairman of the Policy Committee Norman Belanger gives a summery.
1 Public Comment

Vote: 8/1; Councilor Mills Opposed
Councilors Emhiser, Grohman, Whiting, Mills, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Motion carries.

2022.87) Transfer of Tax Increment Financing Credit Enhancement Agreement, plans and permits related to the 60 Barra Rd from SOME Barra, LLC to Tom Watson & Co, LLC

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.
Two Public Comments

Vote: 8/1; Councilor Mills Opposed
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Motion carries.

2022.88) Acceptance/RESOLUTION – Net Zero Carbon Emissions in Biddeford by 2050

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Whiting.
Vote: 6/3; Councilors Belanger, Mills, Lessard Opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Resolution accepted with second reading at next Council Meeting November 1, 2022.

Council Motion to suspend the rules and allow a presentation.

Motion by Councilor Grohman, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.

Vote: Unanimous

Presentation: Race to Zero Pledge: Endorsing Science-based Targets and High Impact Actions.

Presented by Dr. Meaghan Daly
Eight Public Comments

Motion by Councilor Belanger to table until schedule a committee workshop, seconded by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: 5/4; Councilors Belanger, Grohman, Lessard, Mills in Favor.
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz Opposed. Motion defeated.

Motion by Councilor LaFountain to allow a member of the Climate Task Force to speak, seconded by Councilor Mills. Motion withdrawn by Councilor LaFountain, second withdrawn by Councilor Mills.

Motion by Councilor Belanger to allow Councilor Lessard to speak a third time, seconded by Councilor Emhiser.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Councilor LaFountain to allow resident from Ward 7 to answer a question as a member of the Climate Task Force, seconded by Councilor Mills.

Vote: 8/1; Councilor Lessard Opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, Clearwater, Belanger, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Mills to go into Committee-of-the-Whole, seconded by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: 6/3; Councilors Belanger, Mills, Lessard in Favor.
Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz Opposed. Motion defeated.

Motion by Councilor Lessard to include an Amendment that states that this will have zero impact on future budgets, seconded by Councilor Mills.

Vote: 7/2; Councilors Lessard, Mills in Favor.
Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz Opposed. Amendment defeated.

Motion by Councilor Lessard to allow Councilor Mills to speak a third time, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Councilor Belanger that the rules of the Council be suspended and that this item has a second reading, seconded by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Councilor Lessard to amend the last paragraph of the Proclamation, replacing Community with Municipal, seconded by Councilor Mills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the ICLEI's Race to Zero campaign, the Biddeford City Council does hereby commit to ~~community-wide~~ **municipal** net-zero emissions by 2050, with a reduction of 62.6% below the 2019 emissions baseline by 2030

Four Public Comments

Vote as Amended: 7/2; Councilors Lessard, Mills in Favor.

Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz Opposed.

Amendment defeated.

2022.89) Acceptance/RESOLUTION – In support of Maine Water Co plans to create a 250 acre conservation easement on their property

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous

2022.90) Acceptance/RESOLUTION – Support for changes Proposed by Saco River Corridor Commission

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Whiting.

Vote: Unanimous

2022-91) Acceptance/RESOLUTION – In Support of South Street Connector to improve transportation access to the Downtown

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor LaFountain

Four Public Comments

Vote: 5/4; Councilors Emhiser, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz Opposed.

Councilors Belanger, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, Lessard in Favor. Resolution passes.

Committee-of-the-Whole: Planning Board Land Conservation Designation – Clifford Park

Motion to begin Committee-of-the-Whole made by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor LaFountain.

Vote: 7/2; Councilors Mills, Whiting Opposed.

Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor. Motion carries.

Time: 8:52pm

Motion to end Committee-of-the-Whole made by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 9:14pm

Point of Order: Motion to continue the meeting and suspend the rules to allow the meeting to go beyond 9:00pm

Motion by Councilor Belanger to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.

Vote: 8/1; Councilor Mills Opposed.

Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, LaFountain, Ortiz in Favor.

Motion carries.

Appointment: Stephen Beaudette to Downtown Development Commission
Motion made by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater.
Vote: Unanimous

Appointment: Councilor Scott Whiting to Citizens Advisory Committee
Motion made by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger
Vote: Unanimous

Public Addressing: There were no comments from the public.

City Manager report:

Jim Bennett reports on receiving the first payment of the thirty year annual payments for the opioid lawsuit, which annually is \$38,472.03. This is going to be brought to the Council to discuss how they would like to use these funds. The original motion when Biddeford was one of the first communities to do this in the State, was that the Council's intent at the time was to use that money to help members of our community that have been impacted by opioids.

Received notice that one of the grants the Police Department put together for \$125,000 has been awarded.

Lastly, he spoke about mill rates and the growth of the City. He provided some interesting numbers in regards to the mill rates and the growth of the City. Based on the audit that was done two years ago, the financial position of the City has improved by 265% or just under 14 million dollars and up until this last bill, the median single family household paid \$179.04 less than what they were paying in 2014. He feels that this community, the people that work in this community and the people serving on the Board have been good stewards of balancing growth and development and protecting green space, he feels there is a lot to be proud of.

Other Business:

Councilor Mills mentions that he has his Ward 4 neighborhood meeting at the Community Center on Monday, October 24th at 5:30pm, he's hoping for a good turnout.

Councilor Mills also wanted to explain why he didn't support the ARPA Funds vote and that was because playgrounds were left out.

Councilor Grohman thanked Patrick Conlon for leading the "Bicycle to School Day" on October 12th, together with Apex and the Biddeford School Department. There were about 15 kids that participated and it was a great success. They learned some lessons that there needs to be more free helmets out there and the need to do some bike repairs but all-in-all it was a good day.

Council President Addressing the Council:

Council President Norman Belanger did not address the Council.

Mayor Addressing the Council:

Mayor Alan Casavant did not address the Council.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Clearwater to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 9:19