

City of Biddeford
City Council
October 17, 2023 6:00 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

Status:

1. Roll Call - all present

Chairman Belanger
Councilor Lessard
Councilor Ortiz
Councilor Emhiser
Councilor Whiting
Councilor Grohman
Councilor Mills
Councilor Schlaver
Councilor LaFountain

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

4. Proclamation:

- 4.a. Proclamation Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month -PROCLAMATION
Mayor Casavant read the proclamation
- 4.b. Proclamation Extra Mile Day
Mayor Casavant read the proclamation

5. Presentation:

- 5.a. Presentation Spirit Aerosystems

6. Appointments:

- 6.a. Approval/Appointment Syed Zafar to Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Review

Motion: Councilor Mills
Second: Councilor Schlaver
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

7. Public Addressing the Council...(3 minute limit per speaker for up to a total of 15 minutes)

There were several comments about unhoused encampments at Mechanics Park.

8. Consideration of Minutes:

- 8.a. Approval/City Council Minutes 10-3-2023
Motion: Councilor Mills
Second: Councilor Whiting
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

9. Second Reading:

- 9.a. 2023.127) - Approval/Use of City Seal
20231003 Use of City Seal - ORDER 2nd
20231003 Use of City Seal - BRIEF

Motion: Councilor Belanger
Second: Councilor Whiting
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 9.b. 2023.129) Approval/Housing Trust Fund Ordinance

Motion: Councilor Belanger
Second: Councilor Grohman
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day:

- 10.a. 2023.130) Approval/Elm Street CSO Sewer Crossing

Motion: Councilor Belanger
Second: Councilor Lessard

City Engineer Chekan spoke about the project. It will allow the City to solve several problems at once while the area is being worked on for another project. They are actively working with DEP on the compliance list.

Councilor Lessard – this is a great opportunity to be more efficient, he supports it.

Councilor Mills – supports it.

Councilor Grohman – great job by Engineering and Public Works

Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 10.b 2023.131) Approval/Biddeford Housing Authority Funding Request for Adams Point
Motion: Councilor Grohman
Second: Councilor Mills

Biddeford Housing Authority Executive Director Guy Gagnon gave an overview of the project. This is for 39 affordable housing units and the total cost of the project

is 12 million. The City investment is a small portion of the total. They have secured all of the other funding to get approval from the Maine Housing, they will only use this money at the end if needed.

Some Councilors had concerns with committing all of the new Affordable Housing Funds to one project and the timing of the project. Others stated that there are no other projects in the pipeline and this is what the fund is for.

Councilor LaFountain reminded everyone that they spent \$400,000 on sidewalks for a private development.

Councilor Belanger – motion to amend to separate the order into two separate votes
Second: Councilor Mills

Vote on the amendment: 7 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Schlaver, Mills, Grohman, Whiting, Emhiser and Belanger.
2 nays – Councilors Ortiz and LaFountain.
Amendment passed.

Councilor Belanger – motion on the first part of the order that the funds will be committed but the commitment will expire if ground is not broken on or before June 1st, 2024.
Second: Councilor Mills

Councilor Belanger would like final numbers soon so Council can motion the total amount down if possible.

Councilors had questions on other funding sources including vouchers. Director Gagnon explained the formula. If part 2 of the order is removed it would lower the total.

City Manager Bennett – explained that the management fees are consistent with what is allowed.

Vote on the amendment -
5 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman and Schlaver
4 nays – Councilors Lessard, Ortiz, Mills, and LaFountain.
Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended:
7 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Whiting, Mills, Schlaver, Ortiz and LaFountain.
2 nays – Councilors Lessard and Grohman
Motion on part 1 passed.

Councilor Belanger – motion to Table the second part on the permit fee until a later date when the total is known.
Second – Councilor Lessard.

Vote:

5 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Mills, Lessard, Schlaver, and Emhiser

4 nays – Councilors Grohman, Whiting, Ortiz and LaFountain.

Motion to Table part 2 passed.

- 10.c. 2023.132) Approval/Blanket Letter of Approval Beano/Bingo and Game of Chance applications

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

- 10.d 2023.133) Approval/CIP Vehicles

Motion: Councilor Mills

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Lessard – this was discussed in the Finance meeting. Everything checked out.

Fire Department Chief Best reviewed the status of the vehicles in his department.

City Manager – discussed the most efficient way to use some of the vehicles. All of the purchases will have to come back to Finance and Council.

Motion by Councilor Belanger to amend the chart to delete the Year, Requested and Comments columns from the chart.

Second: Councilor Schlaver

Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11. Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker - none

12. City Manager Report

City Manager Jim Bennett gave an update on the City Hall Project, staff met today on some of preliminary details. The project should begin in April 2024. The new Council broadcast system should be in soon. New Town Road has been paved. Bike lanes have been added with some paving projects.

The Unhoused Report from the consultants will be available in November. The purpose is to identify options, costs and outcomes for the Council. Manager Bennett reminded the Council of some of the actions that have been taken on this issue so far this year.

13. Other Business

Councilor Lessard – would appreciate extra hours at the recycling station for fall clean up.

Councilor LaFountain – Absentee Ballots are available, the Housing Trust Fund provides a transparent, public process for funding; private projects are not subject to the same level of scrutiny.

Councilor Schlaver – thanked the teachers, parents and students for a great homecoming.

Councilor Mills – wanted to make a correction - the artist who painted the current mural at 230 Main Street is Susan Bartlett Rice. He also provided details about the revised Halloween events, it will be at 39 Sullivan St parking lot from 4 – 7 pm; it is not a City event but does go through the required permitting process if needed.

14. Council President Addressing the Council - Councilor President Belanger reminded everyone that this is the last meeting before the elections, he encouraged everyone to go vote.

15. Mayor Addressing the Council - Mayor Casavant did not address the Council.

Executive Session

Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (a) Personnel Matters

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:18 pm by Councilor Mills

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:02 pm by Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

16. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm by Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion adjourned

Attested by: _____

Robin Patterson, City Clerk

