

**COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

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

Roll Call: Michael Swanton, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Laura Seaver, Marc Lessard

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Swearing in of Fire Department Officers

City Clerk, Carmen Morris administered the Oath to Robert Lang as Fire Department Captain and to Derick Ouellette as Fire Department Lieutenant.

Update: Biddeford School Department

Superintendent of Schools, Jeremy Ray and Instruction & Innovation Director, Mandy Cyr gave an overview of the demographics, academics, partnerships and spending for the Biddeford School Department. Of particular note, Mr. Ray explained that because Biddeford is a service center community, the Schools see a large diversity of students, which brings on a whole myriad of issues that School Department personnel have to be trained and prepared to deal with.

Update: City Charter Requirement for Advertising of Council Meetings

Per the City Charter, **Art. X-Departments, Offices or Agencies, Sec. 3. City Clerk (a) Give notice in a local newspaper of the time and place of regular and special Council meetings on Friday prior to the week of such meetings. The agenda for City Council meetings shall appear in local media sources and shall be posted on the City bulletin board, at least 24 hours in advance.**

With the closing of Biddeford's only daily local newspaper (Journal Tribune), the City has had to look into other options to meet the Charter advertising requirement. The Portland Press was contacted and it was determined that they have the same timeline for submitting ads and agendas that the Journal Tribune had. This means that council agendas still need to be finalized by noon on the Wednesday prior to a council meeting, and then that agenda is promptly emailed to the Portland Press for publication on the Friday prior to the council meeting.

Proclamation: Extra Mile Day – November 1, 2019

Mayor Casavant read the proclamation. The proclamation will be forwarded to the Extra Mile America organization to show Biddeford's support for this project and volunteerism.

Beano/Bingo Application: St. Louis Alumni Association, Inc.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Seaver to recommend the issuance of a Beano/Bingo License to St. Louis Alumni Association, Inc.

Vote: Unanimous.

Consideration of Minutes: October 1, 2019

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2019.115

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 15, 2019

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the award of contract to Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. of Delhi, NY for the purchase and installation of a Foul Ball Containment System at St. Louis Field, in an amount not to exceed \$150,920.00.

Funding for this project is scheduled to come out of account 21202-60977 – Netting for St. Louis Field and account 22002-60912 – St. Louis Field Improvements.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will consider this item at their October 15, 2019 meeting and vote to recommend passage by the City Council.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr to grant the order.

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

2019.116 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..OCTOBER 15, 2019**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with the Hills Beach Association for the former Hills Beach Fire Station.

NOTE: The Hills Beach Association shall have one year from the approval of this Order to execute the lease/purchase agreement, or said approval shall cease.

Motion by Councilor Swanton, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the following:

That the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize a lease/purchase of the former Hills Beach Fire Station to the Hills Beach Association consistent with the terms outlined in the attached memo; and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. Hills Beach Association shall have one year from the approval to execute the lease/purchase agreement or said approval shall cease.

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to move into Executive Session to discuss this Order, per 1 MRSA 405(6)(C).

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:12 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Seaver to move out of Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:28 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Seaver to table the Order until property appraisals can be obtained.

Vote: 4/5; Councilors Lessard, Ready, Belanger, Clearwater and Swanton opposed.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Seaver in favor.

Motion to table fails.

Vote on Order, as read by Councilor Swanton: 5/4; Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Seaver opposed.

Councilors Swanton, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...OCTOBER 15, 2019

ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

**Richard Rhames
10 West Loop Road
Ward 3**

to the *Cable T.V. Committee*, replacing Bob Mills, with a term to expire December 2020.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to confirm the appointment.

Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):

A couple citizens addressed their concerns to the Council.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett had the following items:

1. As of a couple weeks ago, many of the Department Heads will now be tied up in meetings on Mondays to go over and keep up with on-going projects throughout the City; as well tackle other initiatives as set out by the Council.
2. Back in April when the Council approved a number of development items to move forward, a parking plan was considered. Starting on or about November 1, 2019, the projects on Lincoln Street will take over what has been known as the “Mulligan’s” lot. The City is currently working with entities in the 3 Lincoln Street area, including Saco Falls Way. Staff has come up with a parking plan to accommodate anyone who has interest in this area. Biddeford Savings is also willing to allow folks to park in their back parking lot during nights and weekends. Additional parking is planned to be installed on the old MERC administrative parking lot.

Other Business:

Councilor Ready – received an email from a constituent in regards to the proposed courthouse project on Elm Street. He explained that the only action the Council has taken thus far is to direct the Planning Board to review and consider the project plans. In speaking with the City Planner, Councilor Ready has found out that the courthouse folks are willing to work with the residents in that area to address residents’ concerns. He stressed that this project has not yet been approved – by the Planning Board, and certainly not by the City Council. He understands there are concerns by the residents and that these will be taken into account.

Councilor Belanger – noted that at last week’s Downtown Committee meeting, it was voted that the Alfred Street (Blue) parking lot now offer the first 2 hours of parking free, which still requires folks to enter their plate number in the kiosk.

Councilor Quattrone – wished everyone a Happy Halloween and hopes everyone will be safe. He also encouraged folks to get out and vote on November 5th.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry is pleased that My Teen Center has finally taken off and he believes it will be a huge benefit to the community.

He wished everyone the best and good luck in the upcoming election and like Councilor Quattrone, also encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant noted that there have been a couple of newspaper articles in the Boston Globe about the positives going on in Biddeford.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk