

City of Biddeford
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Council President John McCurry.

Present: Chair, Council President John McCurry, Mayor Alan Casavant, Councilor Mike Ready, Councilor Stephen St. Cyr, City Manager Jim Bennett, and City Clerk Carmen Morris.

Excused: Finance Director Cheryl Fournier.

Adjustment to the Agenda: Councilor McCurry noted item 4.1, repair of fire truck, is removed from the agenda because there was no paperwork.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor Ready to approve the Minutes of September 5, 2017, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Councilor Ready asked about the vacant properties the City has for sale. The City Manager explained there has been no change on these properties since the last Finance Meeting.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 4-0.

The expenditure warrant was available for review and signature.

Discussion/Approval

Contract for Assistance in Appealing the 2017 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps

COO, Brian Phinney, gave an overview. This is basically a policy question whether or not the City wants to join with other municipalities in Southern Maine to challenge the 2017 Preliminary Insurance Rate Maps. Brian explained Ransom Consulting, Inc. is the consultant firm that assisted Biddeford with the PFIRM in 2010 and will do the analysis needed to support an appeal if that is required. This does not guarantee this would change the flood maps, if it will influence FEMA to change if there is a change, or if there is a significant number of homes no longer in the flood zone if changes come up.

Greg Tansley, City Planner, addressed questions from the Committee about the changes in the flood maps noting how many homes would be affected. Greg explained if they do appeal, it has to be a technical based appeal.

Motion by Councilor Ready to forward this order 2017.102 to City Council for consideration, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Mayor Casavant asked about the modeling and what was wrong with it. Greg explained it is the scientific modeling. The Councilors noted the City needs to support the group of residents in that zone and make sure the right data is used.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 4-0.

Contract Renewal w/Gale Associates, Inc./Planning & Engineering Services at Biddeford Municipal Airport

Motion by Councilor Ready to recommend to Council the renewal of the contract with Gale Associates, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Vote: unanimous

Motion carried 4-0.

Contract for Saco River Marine Debris Cleanup Project

Motion by Councilor Ready to recommend to Council the approval of the contract for Saco River Marine debris cleanup, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: The Committee had a few questions and Brian Phinney answered their questions.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 4-0.

Other Business

No other business.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourned at 5:33 pm.