

COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 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., Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

Amy Clearwater was excused.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Proclamation: Constitution Week – September 17 through 23

Mayor Casavant read the proclamation.

Consideration of Minutes: September 1, 2020

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2020.79 IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the purchase of one (1) 2020 Ford Expedition as per bid of September 4, 2020 from Arundel Ford or Arundel, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$37,903.00 (before discounts valued at \$1,300.00). The purchase of this vehicle is included in the FY21 CIP Budget, line 21204-60603.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will consider this item at their September 15, 2020 meeting and vote to recommend to the City Council for consideration.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2020.80 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the purchase of two (2) 2021 Ford Explorer utility police cars as per bid of September 4, 2020 from Arundel Ford or Arundel, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$66,122.00 (before discounts valued at \$11,600.00). The purchase of this vehicle is included in the FY20 Budget, line 21146-60603.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will consider this item at their September 15, 2020 meeting and vote to recommend to the City Council for consideration.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2020.81 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford hereby adopts the Maine Municipal Association Model Ordinance, General Assistance Appendices ~~(A-D-E)~~ – ***General Assistance Maximums*** for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order, specifically Appendices (A-F).

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to designate the City Clerk, Carmen Morris to sign the adoption form to be submitted to the State on behalf of the Municipal Officers.

Vote: Unanimous.

2020.82

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize a one year extension of the lease/purchase agreement of the former Hills Beach Fire Station to the Hills Beach Association.

NOTE: This lease/purchase agreement was first approved by the City Council on October 15, 2019. The Order is attached.

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

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to table this order until the next Council Meeting; and to add an Executive Session for Real Estate Matter to tonight's agenda.
Vote: Unanimous.

2020.67

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...AUGUST 4, 2020

WHEREAS, City ordinance declares it necessary and conducive to the protection of the public health, safety, welfare and convenience of the City to collect charges, referred to as sewer user fees, from all users who contribute wastewater to the City's treatment works; and,

WHEREAS, the sewer user fees are collected and deposited in a non-lapsing fund known as the "Sewer System Operation, Maintenance Replacement Fund and Debt Retirement Fund"; and,

WHEREAS, the proceeds of such fees so derived are used for the purpose of operating and maintaining the public wastewater treatment works and providing for future needs; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized to review and, if necessary, revise the sewer fees used as the basis for sewer fee billing; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of a new category covering multiunit facilities was reviewed and authorized by the Finance Committee on February 18, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the new category is now in place allowing for data downloads from Maine Water relative to sewer user fees used as the basis for sewer use fee calculations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the following rate structure be adopted:

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to remove the order from the table.

Vote: 7/1; Councilor Quattrone opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, St. Cyr, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to amend the order that there be a 5% increase in sewer rate fees across the board; specifically, for residential – which includes multi-family residential, and commercial.

Vote on amendment: 2/6; Councilors Quattrone and Lessard in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, St. Cyr, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz opposed.

Amendment fails.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to table the order until more information can be provided that will make a sewer rate increase fairer across the board.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Ready, McCurry, St. Cyr and Emhiser opposed.

Councilors Quattrone, Belanger, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in opposition to the tabling motion to break the tie.

Motion to table fails.

Vote on order, as originally presented: 4/4; Councilors Lessard, Quattrone, Ortiz and McCurry opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Belanger and Ready in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in the affirmative to break the tie. Motion carries.

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 shared the following information:

- 1) *Other grants/outside funding:* we have several other grants have been awarded or in the pipeline. These include:
 - a. *Eastern Trail:* Biddeford/Saco received notice of a \$75,000 grant to work on finding a connection for the two sections of ET. The study is focusing on the river crossing primarily. Each community will need \$4,500 of local match. We plan to fund that out of the grant reserve account if we cannot absorb it within operations.
 - b. *PACTS additional funding:* we competed for an additional \$200,000 from PACTs funding. I am pleased to report that the staff report that has just come out shows our application was number one scored out of 8 projects by one point. The formal votes will take place over the next 30 days. The project will assist the city in the next level of planning/engineering for the balance of Pearl St from Lincoln to Elm.
 - c. *Arts/Culture grant:* We have received a \$20,000 planning grant to help develop a more formal arts & culture organization/support in our community with an emphasis on the downtown.
 - d. *Fire grants:* You were already given notice that the fire department received \$25,520 of grant funding to purchase personal escape systems for our firefighters. We also have a grant in for 8 FT firefighters. That grant will cover all costs for 3 years with no match. Unlike the COPS grant, there is no requirement to keep staffing at this higher level when the grant funding runs out. We are more encourage this year than previous because of the new process we used and the feedback we are getting from the federal staff dealing with the application.
 - e. *Airport:* We received notice of another \$173,854 100% grant for the airport that is to be used to update the master plan for the city.
- 2) The Lincoln Mill Developers are starting to move toward the next phase of that project.

Other Business:

Councilor McCurry: asked for a quick update on absentee voting from the City Clerk.

City Clerk, Carmen Morris talked about the fact that voters citywide are now receiving numerous mailings from different entities and advocacy groups with absentee vote requests. Carmen explained that as long as voters have made an absentee ballot request with the City Clerk's Office, then they are all set, and the mailings can be disregarded. She expects to receive the absentee ballots at the beginning of October, and all requests for absentee ballots will be mailed out at that time.

Councilor McCurry suggested taking a look at the hours at the Recycling Center and possibly adjusting them to the citizens' needs.

Lastly, he noted that a constituent reached out to him asking why Spectrum has removed the French channel.

Councilor Lessard: encouraged everyone who has not yet done so to complete the Census survey.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry reminded folks that school is back in session, and this means that children are waiting for buses at bus stops throughout the City, and some of the bus stops are new this year. He urged folks to be careful and watch out for the children.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant had the opportunity to tour the Riverdam project and is pleased with the progress he saw there. He noted now important it is that people recognize all the development that is currently going on in the City, including the Riverdam

project; the parking garage – which is slated to open in July 2021; and the on-going development of the Lincoln Mill project.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(D)...Labor Contract Negotiations

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to also include an Executive Session, per 1 MRSA 405(6)(C)...Real Estate Matter.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:57 p.m.

{The Council came into City Hall to meet in person for the Executive Session; and it was noted that no action would be taken.}

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk