

COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2022

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held in-person in the Council Chambers, as well as virtually (via ZOOM),

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Scott Whiting, Martin Grohman, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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

A few citizens expressed their support for the formation of the Ad Hoc Coastal Fire/EMS Substation Committee.

Consideration of Minutes: **August 2, 2022**

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2022.70

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..AUGUST 16, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute a certain option to purchase real estate property on Water Street in Biddeford, upon terms and conditions satisfactory to the City.

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the order.

Motion by Councilor LaFountain, seconded by Councilor Mills to move into Executive Session, per 1 MRSA 405(6)(C)...Acquisition of Property.

Councilor Belanger recused himself from going into Executive Session due to the fact that his law firm has been working on this project.

Vote to move into Executive Session: Unanimous.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Back from Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to allow Councilor Belanger to abstain from the vote.

Vote: Unanimous.

City Manager James Bennett explained that the vote is for a \$10,000 initial payment when the option is executed; after which the final details and cost will come back to the Council for final approval.

Vote on order: Unanimous.

2022.71

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..AUGUST 16, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby establish an Ad Hoc Coastal Fire/EMS Substation Committee; as well as the scope of what the Committee will be charged with.

Motion by Councilor Emhiser, seconded by Councilor Whiting to grant the order.

Councilor Lessard asked to go on record, stating that Fire and EMS coverage for eastern Biddeford should be something that is started sooner than waiting for a committee report scheduled for February 2023.

Vote: Unanimous.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..AUGUST 16, 2022

ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint the following to the ***Ad Hoc Coastal Fire/EMS Substation Committee:***

Councilor William Emhiser, Chair
15 Seventh Street

Peter McPheeters
1 Bayview Avenue

Karin Gregory
20 Elizabeth Road

William Riggs
32 Sea Spray Drive

Michael Swanton
110 Old Pool Road

Patricia Boston
60 Hills Beach Road

James Emerson
127 Old Pool Road

Kyle Noble
56 Hills Beach Road

Jeffrey Greene
25 Ledgemere Drive

Paul Labrecque
23 Emerald Lane

Daniel Boucher
72 Hill Street, #102

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to confirm the appointments.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
There were no comments from the public.

City Manager Report:

City Manager James Bennett had the following items:

- He shared that Biddeford had the lowest amount of discharge into the Saco River from combine sewer overflow in recent history. He has asked the Public Works Director and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent to do a presentation at an upcoming meeting. He went on to thank the Council and the community for their support on past Bond Referendums funding CSO work.
- Staff is putting together a \$3.9 million request for the Lead Removal Program, which would give the City another 4-year cycle in this program.
- The Communications Coordinator and Community Engagement Specialist have instituted another way for folks to stay informed about what is going on in the City. There is now a Hotline number that folks can call – (207) 571-0695 – to hear an update on the current happenings in the City.
- The Transit Committee recently got notification that they will be receiving \$2,047,407 to replace two of the diesel buses with two electric buses.
- Senator Collins has identified \$7.6 million for Route 1 improvements as one of her earmarks. There is still a process to go through to determine if the funds will be granted.
- After speaking with the Mayor and Council President, it has been decided to move back to the original set up in the Council Chambers, which will eliminate all the temporary hookups and hopefully, the technical difficulties.

Other Business:

Councilor Clearwater: announced that this coming weekend is Fringe Fest (on Friday) and River Jam (on Saturday). There will be lots of music, food and plenty for folks of all ages to enjoy.

She and Councilor LaFountain attended the last Community Dinner and had a lovely time. She encouraged everyone to attend the next one.

She is pleased that Neighborhood Meetings are being organized and will begin soon. It will be nice to connect with constituents directly and hear what their concerns are.

Councilor Mills: has had a couple of constituents reach out to him and ask about installing bicycle lanes on the major thoroughfares. There are also concerns about speeding on certain streets in the City.

He is upset about the flower boxes in the downtown that have been dumped over; as well as the damage done at the community gardens.

Councilor Grohman: is also disheartened by the damage and destruction of the downtown flower boxes and community gardens.

Councilor Lessard: asked if it would be possible to install cameras in locations that can capture vandalism of the downtown flower boxes and community gardens, which would aid the Police Department.

Councilor Lessard deems himself one of the more fiscally conservative Councilors, yet one who wants to do most things quickly. He is finding ironic that other Councilors who seem to be less conservative tend to want to move more slowly on some things.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant shared that on Thursday, August 18th, there will be a revealing of the Marquis de Lafayette plaque at Deering Lumber in honor of the American Revolution. This has been organized by the Biddeford Cultural Heritage Society.

He also spoke about this coming weekend's Fringe Fest and River Jam, encouraging all to check it out.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Mills to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Bernier, City Clerk