

City of Biddeford
City Council
August 15, 2023 6:00 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

Status:

1. Roll Call -

Chairman Belanger - present
Councilor Lessard - present
Councilor Ortiz - present
Councilor Emhiser - present
Councilor Whiting - present
Councilor Grohman – arrived at 6:09 pm
Councilor Mills – arrived at 6:08 pm via Zoom
Councilor Schlaver - present
Councilor LaFountain - present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Item 9b was tabled in the Finance meeting and will be brought back to Council at a future date.

Presentation 7a will be addressed at this time.

7a – Status of Municipal Volunteers by Mayor Casavant

Volunteers are critical to the all of the events and committees in the City. We need more volunteers.
It is important to recognize their contributions.

Mayor Casavant presented Spirit of America Awards to Paul Gagne and Denis Letellier for their many years of service.

4. Public Hearing

- 4.a. Order Authorizing Issuance of \$9,000,000 of the City's General Obligation Bonds to Construct, Equip and Furnish an Addition to the Biddeford Primary School

Public Hearing opened at 6:08 pm
There were no citizen comments.
Public Hearing closed at 6:09 pm

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

The events for River Jam and Fringe Fest were discussed.

A citizen described concerns with the crosswalk at Elm and Dartmouth

There is a fundraising storytelling event at the City Theater this weekend, the theme is Community, and all proceeds will go to Catholic Charities.

Biddeford Community Gardens have surpassed 500 pounds of vegetables donated to the community. They have had many successful activities.

6. Consideration of Minutes:

- 6.a. Council Minutes 8-1-2023
City Council Minutes 8-1-23

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

7. Presentation

- 7.a. Status of Municipal Volunteers by Mayor Casavant

Presented at the beginning of the meeting, see adjustment.

- 7.b. Assessing Final Valuation Update FY24
FY 24 Final Valuations

Presentation to the Council by City Assessor Nicholas Desjardins

Discussed past challenges, assessing process and current results.

8. Second Reading:

- 8.a. 2023.90 Order Authorizing Issuance of \$9,000,000 of the City's General Obligation Bonds to Construct, Equip and Furnish an Addition to the Biddeford Primary School
Biddeford 2023 Bond Order - Biddeford Primary School Addition 2nd
BPS_JFK Bond Memo - City Council (1)
Biddeford 2023 Referendum Election Notice Warrant

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9. Orders of the Day:

- 9.a. 2023.94 Approval/City Manager Contract
20230815 Approval City Manager Employment Agreement - ORDER
Employment Agreement, James Bennett - DRAFT

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

- 9.b. 2023.95 Approval/Carry Forward Funds FY23 to FY24

This item was tabled in the Finance meeting and will be brought back to Council at a future date.

- 9.c. 2023.96 Approval/Apex Payment for Ineligible CDBG Program Expenses
20230815 Approval/APEX Ineligible CDBG Expense Reimbursement - ORDER
20230815 Approval/APEX Ineligible CDBG Expense Reimbursement - BRIEF
20230815 APEX CDBG CV - INVOICE
20230815 APEX FY 2021-2022 CDBG - INVOICE

Motion: Councilor Belanger
Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Belanger – this was discussed in the Finance meeting. The amount was reduced to \$9,000. The rationale was that APEX made a unilateral decision to change the scope of service and therefore was not reimbursed. The City should have overseen that decision. The resulting ineligible expenses should be shared by both.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 9.d. 2023.97 Approval/IT Scale Refresh
20230815 Approval IT Scale Refresh - ORDER
20230815 Approval IT Scale Refresh - BRIEF
20230815 Systems Engineering Scale Refresh - QUOTE

Motion: Councilor Whiting
Second: Councilor Lessard
Councilor LaFountain requested to abstain from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest.
Councilor Belanger – motion to allow Councilor LaFountain to abstain.
Councilor Lessard – second

Vote: 8 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Lessard, Ortiz, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, and Schlaver.

1 abstention – Councilor LaFountain

Vote on the original order: 8 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Lessard, Ortiz, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, and Schlaver.

1 abstention – Councilor LaFountain.

Motion passed.

9.e. 2023.98 Approval/IT Vision Cloud Hosting

20230815 Approval Hosted Vision Data Services - ORDER

20230815 Approval Hosted Vision Data Services - BRIEF

20230815 Vision Government Solutions Vision Cloud Hosting - QUOTE

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9.f. 2023.99 Approval/IT MS365

20230815 Approval IT MS365 - ORDER

20230815 Approval IT MS365 - BRIEF

20230815 Systems Engineering MS365 - QUOTE

Councilor LaFountain requested to abstain from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest.

Councilor Belanger – motion to allow Councilor LaFountain to abstain.

Councilor Lessard – second

Vote: 8 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Lessard, Ortiz, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, and Schlaver.

1 abstention – Councilor LaFountain

Vote on the original order: 8 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Lessard, Ortiz, Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Mills, and Schlaver.

1 abstention – Councilor LaFountain.

Motion passed.

10. Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker)

One citizen addressed the Council with concerns about Main Street.

11. City Manager Report

The City Manager did not report to the Council

12. Other Business

Councilor Grohman – Biddeford Tiger Football season opener Friday 8/25 vs Sanford.

13. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President did not address the Council

14. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Casavant thanked City Manager James Bennett for his leadership, knowledge and dedication. Much of the progress that has been discussed is a direct result of his work.

15. Executive Session

15.a. Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (c) Economic Development

Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilor Belanger at 7:06 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Councilor Belanger at 8:09 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous, Councilor Mills absent from the vote.

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Belanger at 8:09 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous, Councilor Mills absent from the vote.

Attested by: _____



Robin Patterson, City Clerk