

**COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 2017**

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

Roll Call: John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Victoria Foley, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Marc Lessard

Michael Swanton and Laura Seaver were excused.

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

Adjustment to the Agenda:

Remove Order 2017.78 – Approval/FY18 Budget Amendments

Swearing-In of Fire Department Officers

Mayor Casavant began by thanking Capt. Norman Melancon, who is retiring this week, for his 42 years of service to the Biddeford Fire Department.

Fire Chief Scott Gagne presented two members of the Fire Department for promotion: City Clerk, Carmen Morris swore in Justin Cooper as a Biddeford Fire Department Captain and Robert Lang as a Biddeford Fire Department Lieutenant.

Special Event Permit: Biddeford Airport Open House – August 19, 2017

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to approve the Special Event Permit for the Biddeford Airport Open House.

Vote: Unanimous.

Consideration of Minutes: June 20, 2017

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Second Reading:

{For a copy of the ordinance amendment and first reading, see the council meeting minutes of June 20, 2017}

**2017.66) Amendment/Land Development Regulations/Art. III-Official Zoning Map/
Rezone 38 South Street from MSRD-2 to MSRD-1**

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the second reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2017.73

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...,JULY 11, 2017

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Biddeford that the Code of Ordinances,

Chapter 58, SOLID WASTE, Section 58-62, Use of transfer station, is amended by adding or ~~deleting~~ to read as follows:

Sec. 58-62. Use of transfer station.

Any resident, taxpayer, commercial entity, or property owner of the City of Biddeford may dispose of any material as listed in Sec 58-64 by disposing of it at the transfer station. **Materials identified in Sec. 58-64 (a) (1), 58-64 (a) (11) and 58-64 (b) shall only be acceptable if the materials have come from a property located within the limits of the City of Biddeford.**

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to grant the first reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: Unanimous.

2017.74 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL....JULY 11, 2017**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council hereby adopts the revised Biddeford RiverWalk Master Plan (including Pedestrian Downtown Connections) prepared by Wright-Pierce dated December 2, 2016.

Note: This Order establishes the “working plan”, which serves as the roadmap for future work, such as but not limited to, design, easement acquisition, final design, review of and application for grant funding opportunities, etc. This Order is not a financial authorization.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2017.75 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JULY 11, 2017**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the Capital Improvement Projects Master Plan allocation for FY18, as recommended by the Capital Projects Committee. (see attached list)

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

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor McCurry to amend the order by adding, “Master Plan” after the word Projects.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on order, as amended: Unanimous.

2017.76 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JULY 11, 2017**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the waiver of all building and electrical permit fees for the Waterhouse Field renovations; including the installation of bleachers, lights and a scoreboard.

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

Vote: 6/1; Councilor Lessard opposed.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger and Ready in favor.

Motion carries.

2017.77

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..JULY 11, 2017

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize that the FY18 Property Tax Commitment shall be payable in two equal installments on October 11, 2017 and April 11, 2018 with any odd amount to be due on the first installment, and that interest shall be collected at the rate of 7.00% per annum on any taxes remaining unpaid after each respective installment date.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Tax Collector by authorized to accept voluntary prepayments on property taxes and to pay interest on these voluntary prepayments at the rate of 0% per annum.

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

Vote: 6/1; Councilor McCurry opposed.

Councilors St.Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett had a number of items:

- First, he extended his congratulations to Capt. Norman Melancon on his retirement.
- Jim handed out a memo and briefly discussed the State Budget impact on the City's FY18 Budget. The new State Law increases the Homestead Exemption to \$20,000 per household from \$15,000; however, the reimbursement is going down to 50% from 62.5%. Biddeford has 3,363 homes that qualify for the Homestead Exemption, so the reduced reimbursement to the City equates to an expected reduction of \$170,083.
- Jim announced that on July 22nd, the Shrine Lobster Bowl will be held at Thornton Academy. The hope is that assuming the Waterhouse Field renovations are completed by next year, the Lobster Bowl will be moved back to Biddeford. That said, the Kora Shrine organization will still have their parade in Biddeford, with all Shrine units expected to participate.
- Jim made the Council aware that the City saw an increase of about \$56 million in valuation in FY17. He also noted that the Codes Office permitting fees for FY17 have exceeded what had been proposed.
- Finally, in an effort to clear up some misinformation, Jim explained that a few weeks ago, a citizen did a comparison of home values in Biddeford to those in other communities. However, that citizen's comparison was based on asking prices of houses, which is not a real comparison at all. He is including valid and factual information in next week's edition of the Biddeford Beat, where he answers questions about property valuations and assessments.

Public Addressing the Council..(3 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit)

There were no public comments.

Other Business:

Councilor Ready: asked where the City is at in terms of setting up a different tax structure for the Downtown District. He would like this worked on sooner rather than later, with monthly updates

given at the first council meeting of each month. He stressed that communication with the Downtown District is going to be key to setting up a different tax structure.

Councilor Quattrone: shared that on Saturday, July 15th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Biddeford Historical Society will be holding an event for the 200th Anniversary of John Monroe coming to Biddeford.

Councilor Lessard: agreed with Councilor Ready's comments about establishing a different tax structure for the Downtown District. He would like to see this done before March 1st, 2018 and have something in place for the next budget season.

Councilor McCurry: suggested that the Council start keeping an "Unfinished Business" list to ensure items are not falling through the cracks.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry shared that he and Mayor Casavant attended the Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club Luncheon a few weeks ago where the City of Biddeford was awarded the Vocational Service Award for the Council's support and commitment to vocational and technical education for the youth in our communities.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant announced Music in the Park on Wednesday evenings at Shevenell Park during the summer. He has been hearing a lot of positive feedback from folks about the work being done on Main Street. He also noted that the building next door to Shevenell Park recently sold for \$850,000, which shows that property valuations really are going up in the downtown.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(A)..Performance Review – City Manager

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:09 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to move out of Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to adjourn.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:21 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk