

City of Biddeford, Maine
Policy Committee Meeting
Monday June 12, 2017

Minutes

1. Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Policy Committee Chair councilor Michael Ready. Other Policy Committee members present were: councilor Laura Seaver and members Nathan Bean and Renee O’Neil. Councilor Norman Belanger was excused. Present by invitation was City Attorney Keith Jacques.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The American flag was honored through the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda – No adjustments.

4. Acceptance of Minutes: *Motion by SEAVER seconded by BEAN to accept the minutes of the May 22,, 2017 meeting as printed. Vote unanimous.*

5.1. Discussion/Review: Delivery of Unsolicited Items.

The Policy Committee entertained a question and answer period with City Attorney Keith Jacques regarding the Delivery of Unsolicited Items.

Several questions and key points were raised by the Committee, and by Keith Jacques, some of which included:

- Can the city limit the delivery of newspapers as to where they are dropped?
- Since the practice of newspaper delivery has been allowed to go on so long, it becomes more difficult for the city to force a change in that practice.
- Any ordinance that could be interpreted as prohibiting free speech is problematic.
- Possible ordinance could be implemented that controls mechanism by which it is delivered, vs. an outright ban.
- Opt in versus an Opt out option was discussed, with the Opt out option being viewed as least negative impact on the public.
- Discussed enacting an ordinance that would incorporate a requirement that newspapers are picked up after a specific amount of time after delivery; or, no delivery after an accumulated of papers that are left behind.
- Implementation of language to would ban delivery during a snow ban parking.

Attorney Jacques was charged with crafting an ordinance that would address some of these points, and certain one that would include the acceptable method of delivery, and one that would insure the pick up of any papers that are left on the streets, sidewalks, and entrances to property. The Committee took no formal vote on this issue.

6. Adjourn – *Motion by SEAVER and seconded by ONEIL to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Vote unanimous.*