

COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 7, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

Amy Clearwater was excused.

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

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Add Proclamation: LGBTQ+ Month – June 2022
- Add Order of the Day: 2022.46

Presentation: Biddeford Historical Society

President of the Biddeford Historical Society, Paul McDonough gave the presentation. He explained that the Historical Society is the Treasure Keeper of Biddeford's historical archives. They are currently located in the basement of the McArthur Library where they store their collection of documents dating back to 1653, City reports and a variety of City artifacts. The monetary value of the collection has been estimated to be in the high thousands of dollars. The Society would love to be able to move to a more permanent space where they can collect, store and exhibit their valuable collection. The Historical Society also maintains the Meetinghouse Building, which is one of the oldest Meetinghouses in the United States. It is their hope to install a new heating system that will not impair the beauty and integrity of the building. With the financial support of the City, which is typically \$10,000 annually, and fundraising efforts, the Society is confident that they can keep up with the maintenance of the Meetinghouse. He encouraged the Councilors to reach out to him or another Historical Society Board Member to arrange a tour of the Meetinghouse and to hear about the historical artifacts that the Society has in its possession.

Proclamations:

- **Men's Health Month – June 2022** – Mayor Casavant read the proclamation.
- **LGBTQ+ Month – June 2022** – Mayor Casavant read the proclamation.

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

A few citizens addressed their comments to the Council.

Consideration of Minutes: May 17, 2022; May 19, 2022

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the minutes of May 17, 2022 as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Grohman to accept the minutes of May 19, 2022 as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2022.42

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 7, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby confirm the City Manager's appointment of Gregory A. Mitchell as the Director of Economic Development and Planning; and to further authorize the execution of the employment agreement.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Whiting to confirm the appointment.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.43

BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....JUNE 7, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the Biddeford City Council does hereby grant approval pursuant with Title 15 M.R.S.A. §5824(3) & §5822(4)(A) to the transfer of \$2,059.00 in U.S. Currency, or any portion thereof, on the grounds that the City of Biddeford Police Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of this or related criminal case. ALFSC-CR-18-1069. These funds shall be transferred to the City of Biddeford, Asset Forfeiture Account 3119-40576.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Mills to grant the order.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.44

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 7, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve a change in the City's MainePERS Plan, specifically for the City's Dispatchers, effective July 1, 2022 for future service only. The City agrees to:

- a) Provide coverage for full-time Dispatchers under Special Plan 3C for service rendered after June 30, 2022. Service rendered by Dispatchers during the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2022 remains under Regular Plan AC and service rendered before July 1, 2010 remains under Regular Plan AN.
- b) Continue to provide Special Plan 3C to full-time Police Officers and Firefighters.
- c) Continue to provide Regular Plan AC to all other full-time employees, including School Support Employees, and to its elected/appointed officials.
- d) Continue to exclude employees who work less than full-time or who are seasonal or temporary as defined by the Appendix to MainePERS Rule Chapter 802 from participating in the plan.
- e) To authorize James Bennett, City Manager, to sign the Amended Agreement between the City and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.45

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 7, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize that City Hall Offices business hours be set at Monday and Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This change to be effective starting June 27, 2022.

NOTE: The Personnel Committee considered this item at their May 17, 2022 meeting and voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council.

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

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Mills to amend the order to include that the change in City Hall business hours would run parallel with the next fiscal year, and the issue of the business hours will be reviewed in a year.

Vote: 3/5; Councilors Lessard, Grohman and Mills in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Belanger, LaFountain and Ortiz opposed.

Amendment fails.

Vote on order: 5/3; Councilors Lessard, Grohman and Mills opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Belanger, LaFountain and Ortiz in favor.

Motion carries.

2022.46

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 7, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that in accordance with the provisions set forth under *Ch. 6, Amusements, Article V – Sales, Possession and Consumption of liquor at and during Special Events on City Public Property*, the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby grant approval for LaKermesse Franco-Americaine to have beer/wine sold and served at their festival on June 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 2022 at St. Louis Field, providing that the sale and consumption of the alcoholic beverages be confined within a clearly defined area that has been approved and licensed by the State of Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Council has already approved the issuance of a Special Event Permit for the LaKermesse Franco-Americaine Festival on June 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 2022.

NOTE: This Order is intended to clarify that alcohol will be sold and served within restricted areas at St. Louis Field, and not permissible in any other areas of the Field.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Whiting to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 7, 2022

ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

**Parker Montano
319 Main Street, Apt. 2
Ward 6**

to the *Airport Commission*, replacing Dean Tourigny, for a term to expire in December 2023.

Motion by Councilor Grohman, seconded by Councilor Belanger to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
A couple citizens addressed their comments to the Council.

City Manager Report:

City Manager James Bennett provided some clarification on the West Brook Subdivision, which was the topic of most of the public comments at this meeting. Ultimately, the proposal before the Planning Board requires the City to give up 4 acres of land to gain 101.8 acres of land.

Jim offered clarification on information he had provided during the change in City Hall business hours discussion. The Police Officers actually work a four days on and 2 days off schedule.

Other Business:

Councilor Lessard: had the following items:

- 1) Thanked the City Manager for ensuring that the Recycling Center was open a couple of Sundays during the month of May.
- 2) He explained and apologized for his abruptness when questioning the City Manager earlier in the meeting.
- 3) He asked that when meetings get posted in Granicus that the postings include the date, time, location and Zoom link for the meeting; as well as a listing of committee/commission/board members.
- 4) As it relates to affordable housing and the survey put out by the Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force, in addition to the questions geared towards renters, he would also like to see questions geared towards the landlords. He believes that information from both tenants and landlords will be valuable.

Councilor Mills: asked about the funds that Devine Capital is committed to giving to the City as part of their Joint Development Agreement.

Councilor Ortiz: noted that as Chair of the Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force, they did put out a survey to citizens and she encouraged everyone to participate, including those who may be thinking of moving to Biddeford and those who currently do not have stable housing.

She thanked the Council for their support for the raising of the Pride Flag for the month of June. She is pleased with the turnout at the Flag raising event on June 1st.

Councilor Grohman: congratulated the Biddeford High School Class of 2022, including the students, teachers and staff who made it happen.

Councilor LaFountain: is concerned about the recent positive testing of lead in our schools and thinks the City should also be testing other City buildings, including the Community Center and City Hall.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor Belanger thanked the citizens who attended tonight’s Council Meeting and expressed their concerns about the West Brook Subdivision project. He noted how important it is to have public input on this and other issues that the City is dealing with.

He also congratulated the Class of 2022.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant shared that a delegation from Quebec Province will be coming to participate in LaKermesse this year.

He thanked Delilah Poupore and Sara Bloom for their performance at a recent Biddeford Historical Society event. Sara played the pump organ at the Meetinghouse and Delilah sang and the performance was beautiful.

He thanked Councilor Martin Grohman for serving as the Memorial Day Parade Master of Ceremonies – he did an excellent job. He also recognized the Heart of Biddeford for pulling off the parade this year after not having it for the past couple of years.

He recognized that the Maine School Superintendents Association recently awarded Jeremy Ray the ***Outstanding Leadership Award for 2021***.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(C)....Acquisition of Land

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:38 p.m.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:38 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Bernier, City Clerk