

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 4, 2020

*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually (via ZOOM),
and was live streamed on the City's website*

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

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr.,
Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

John McCurry, Jr. joined at 6:43 p.m.

Discussion: Municipal Services Presentations

Conservation Commission – Chair, Steven Reiter presented – reduced their request to \$3500, which reflects a \$1,500 decrease

Biddeford Mills Museum – Dorothy Mathes presented – asking for original request of \$10,000; however, did say that they would manage with \$5,000.

Bidd-Saco Economic Development Corporation – Will Armitage presented – asking for original request of \$10,361 due to a decline in expected revenues

City Theater – President & CEO Mark Nahorney presented – asking for original request of \$30,000 to be used towards capital projects in the Theater.

Eastern Trail Alliance – Carole Brush presented – asking for original request of \$5,000, which basically is the City's dues to belong to the Eastern Trail Alliance.

Engine – Tammy Ackerman presented – asking for original request of \$15,000, with \$5,000 of that amount to be used towards a match for a grant that has been applied for.

Biddeford Cultural & Heritage Center – Director Diane Cyr presented – asking for original request of \$10,000

Heart of Biddeford – HOB Director Delilah Poupore presented – offered a \$3,000 decrease in the marketing part of the budget; asked for full funding on the operational side of the budget

Holiday Lighting (through HOB) – also presented by Delilah Poupore - request for \$16,133 – depending on what the council wants to do with additional decorations, this amount could be reduced

Biddeford Historical Society – Executive Director Catherine Glynn presented – asking for original request of \$10,000, mostly due to the need for maintenance and restoration of the Meetinghouse Building

LifeFlight Foundation - CEO Thomas Judge presented – asking for original request of \$2,000, which supports aircraft

Age Friendly Biddeford – Holly Culloton presented – asking for original request of \$3,140, which is used for various programs that support the City's Seniors.

LaKermesse – President Jessica Quattrone presented – asked that the \$6,000 that is typically allocated for assisting with putting up and taking down the holiday lights is still budgeted for. She noted that LaKermesse already received their budget request for the current year and since the LaKermesse Festival has been canceled, asked if it should be paid back to the City, or if they just go to \$0 for the FY21 request

McArthur Library – Library Director Jeff Cabral presented – asking for the original request of \$558,608, mostly due to additional costs that will be incurred in order for the Library to meet the reopening guidelines – barriers, PPE, security, etc.

Saco River Corridor Commission – Executive Director Dalyn Houser presented – asking for the original request of \$10,000, stating that most of the Commissions work, specifically water testing, is concentrated in the Biddeford and Saco area.

Biddeford-Saco-OOB Transit – Executive Director Tony Scavuzzo presented – is offering to request a flat funding of \$165,000 (same amount as FY20), which equates to a \$35,000 decrease from the original request

Southern Maine Planning & Development – Director Paul Schumacher presented – is offering to request a flat funding of \$8,928 (same amount as FY20), which equates to a \$268 decrease from the original request

Southern Maine Beach Profile Monitoring Program – Kristen Grant presented – asking for the original request of \$1,000, which helps pay for a very limited, part-time volunteer coordinator

Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery – James Bachelder presented – asking for the original request of \$1,000; however, did say they would manage with \$500.

APEX Youth Connection – Melissa Cilley presented – is offering to accepted a less amount of \$5,000, which equates to a \$5,000 decrease from the original request; however, would be very grateful to be funded at the original request of \$10,000

Seeds of Hope – Director Rev. Shirley Bowen presented – request is for \$24,000

Historic Preservation Commission – Chair Aurelie Wallach presented – asking for the original request of \$800, which is used mostly for Commission members' educational purposes

Other Business:

The FY21 Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th – Jim is looking for guidance from the Council on how they want to proceed if the City were to move forward with trying to hold it in a public space and allow the public to attend. The general consensus of the Council is that it would just not be feasible to plan the public hearing in a public space, with the public present, due to the current restrictions. They are comfortable with holding the public hearing via ZOOM and allowing public comment that way.

Councilor Clearwater wants to make sure that the public hearing information is getting out, as well as information on how to contact the Councilors if members of the public do want to join the public hearing via ZOOM. City Manager, Jim Bennett suggested that folks can call the hotline number.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 9:19 p.m.