

**COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 4, 2019**

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

Roll Call: Michael Swanton, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Laura Seaver, Marc Lessard

Amy Clearwater was excused.

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

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Remove Order 2019.57
- Remove Committee of the Whole

Consideration of Minutes: **May 21, 2019**

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2019.54

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 4, 2019

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents to transfer the land and building at Map 55, Lot 51 (Hills Beach Fire Station) to the Hills Beach Association or other legal entity created by the Association for said purpose. Said documents shall include the requirement that the property cannot be transferred to any other entity without consent of the City of Biddeford and that the land and building shall revert back to the City should the Hills Beach Association **or the legal entity created by the Hills Beach Association for said purpose** cease to exist.

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

Motion by Councilor Swanton, seconded by Councilor Ready to amend the order to add:

“or the legal entity created by the Hills Beach Association for said purpose...”

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to table the Order until more information can be gathered regarding the transfer of ownership.

Vote: 5/3; Councilors Seaver, Ready and Swanton opposed.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Belanger and Lessard in favor.

Motion to table carries.

2019.55

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 4, 2019

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby suspend the enforcement of parking regulations relating to the charging of parking fees in all downtown parking lots that have kiosks during the LaKermesse Block Party, scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019.

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

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to amend the order to specify that fees will be waived for the Yellow Lot only, to keep with the *Event Parking Waivers Policy* that is currently in place.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Seaver, Belanger, Quattrone and Swanton opposed.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Ready and Lessard in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in opposition.

Motion fails.

Vote on order: 2/6; Councilors Quattrone and Swanton in favor.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Belanger, Ready, Seaver and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

2019.56

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 4, 2019

WHEREAS, City ordinance declares it necessary and conducive to the protection of the public health, safety, welfare and convenience of the City to collect charges, referred to as sewer user fees, from all users who contribute wastewater to the City's treatment works; and,

WHEREAS, the sewer user fees are collected and deposited in a non-lapsing fund known as the “Sewer System Operation, Maintenance Replacement Fund and Debt Retirement Fund”; and,

WHEREAS, the proceeds of such fees so derived are used for the purpose of operating and maintaining the public wastewater treatment works and providing for future needs; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized to review and, if necessary, revise the sewer rates used as the basis for sewer fee billing; and,

WHEREAS, the last sewer rate increase occurred in fiscal year 2018;

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2020 budget passed an increase of 7.5%,

WHEREAS, the staff recommends the following rate schedule, which includes a 6.5% increase for residential, and 9.4% increase for commercial.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the following rate structure be adopted:

Type	Frequency	Min Volume (cu. ft.)	Max Volume (cu. ft.)	Proposed Rate (per 100 cu. ft.)
Residential	Monthly	0	392	\$4.59
Residential	Monthly	393	1,666	\$6.25
Residential	Monthly	1,667	Unlimited	\$6.56
Residential	Quarterly	0	1,175	\$4.59
Residential	Quarterly	1,176	5,000	\$6.25
Residential	Quarterly	5,001	Unlimited	\$6.56
Commercial	Monthly	0	425	\$7.03
Commercial	Monthly	426	1,667	\$7.03
Commercial	Monthly	1,668	4,167	\$7.77
Commercial	Monthly	4,168	Unlimited	\$8.40
Commercial	Quarterly	0	1,275	\$7.03
Commercial	Quarterly	1,276	5,000	\$7.03
Commercial	Quarterly	5,001	12,500	\$7.77
Commercial	Quarterly	12,501	Unlimited	\$8.40

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to grant the order.
Vote: 7/1; Councilor Lessard opposed.
Councilors Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Belanger, Ready and Seaver in favor.
Motion carries.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JUNE 4, 2019

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

Dominic Deschambault
361 Elm Street
Ward 5

to the *Biddeford Housing Authority* with a term to expire December 2023.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
One citizen expressed his concerns to the Council.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett reported on the following items:

- We estimate that an additional \$300,000 of revenue sharing funds would reduce the tax rate by another \$0.12
 - The current adopted budget has a projected mil rate increase for school and city
 - \$0.04 for city side
 - \$0.33 for school side (school has not really changed at all the last few years)
 - \$0.37 total change; new rate \$20.07 up from \$19.70 (*this does not include any impact from York County*)
 - The revised tax rate would be \$19.95 (1.27% increase)
 - -\$0.08 on city side
 - \$0.33 for school side
 - \$0.25 increase in tax rate.
- The additional homestead would save Biddeford homeowners and additional \$97.75 on their property tax bill ($\$5,000 \times 98\% \text{ factored} \times \$19.95 \times .001^*$)
- To calculate the breakeven point for the homeowner because of the increase in the tax rate:
 - $\$97.75 / 1.27\% = \$7,696.85$ FY19 tax bill or
 - $\$7,696.85 / \19.70 (FY19 tax rate) $\times .001^* = \$390,703$ taxed home plus the value of the FY19 homestead of \$20,000 = \$410,703
 - Every home owner that has the homestead and their home is taxed at \$410,703 or less will see their FY20 tax bill the same or go down slightly
 - The median valued home in Biddeford is \$227,100; hence over half of the homes would see a reduction
 - All others would see a 1.27% increase in the tax bill
- Bottom line is that the proposed state budget, as it sits today with the Appropriation Committee's vote will deliver positive impacts on the single family homes in the community and will reduce the overall property tax rate on the municipal side compared to a year ago.

The City has begun the Street Light Conversion Project in which all the street lights will eventually be converted to LED lights. This conversion is expected to save the City just over \$100,000 in the FY20 Budget.

Other Business:

Councilor McCurry: had the following items:

- 1) He has been receiving both positive and negative feedback on the big stone planters on Main Street.
- 2) There are currently signs posted at the City's playing fields that state, "No Dogs on Field." He's been hearing from folks that their dogs are not on the field, but are on the sidelines. He's wondering if the signs should be worded differently to specify "No Dogs Beyond this Point."
- 3) He asked if there is Council support to put together a Resolution to be sent to the State Legislators which expresses that the City does NOT support the elimination of the Electoral College.

Councilor Quattrone: had the following items:

- 1) He urged voters to vote next Tuesday, June 11th at the School Budget Validation Referendum Election.
- 2) He announced that the Autism Summer Camp is no longer taking applications. There are currently more applications than there are spots in the Camp, so he will work with UNE to see if there is a way to be able to accommodate all the applicants.
- 3) He shared his support for putting together and sending a Resolution to the State Legislators which expresses that the City does NOT support the elimination of the Electoral College.

Councilor Swanton: addressed a comment made by the citizen who spoke during *Public Addressing the Council* – he clarified that a General Meeting of Citizens is actually scheduled by the City Council upon receipt of the 100 signatures from qualified voters of Biddeford.

Councilor Lessard: had the following items:

- 1) In light of the City Manager’s report on the City’s estimate in receiving an additional \$300,000 in revenue sharing, he would like the Council to have the opportunity to discuss how those additional funds should be budgeted.
- 2) He assured Councilor McCurry that the Policy Committee will discuss the “No Dogs on Field” signage at the City’s playing fields.
- 3) He shared his support for putting together and sending a Resolution to the State Legislators which expresses that the City does NOT support the elimination of the Electoral College.

Councilor Seaver: was very pleased to hear about the \$7.5 million Grant that was awarded to the Biddeford Municipal Airport. She noted that the Grant involves no matching funds from the City. She further urged folks to attend the Biddeford Airport Open House event scheduled for Saturday, August 17th.

Councilor Belanger: had the following items:

- 1) While he does not support the elimination of the Electoral College; he also does not feel it is appropriate for the City Council to take a stance on this issue and send a Resolution to the State Legislators.
- 2) He has also received complaints about the big stone planters on Main Street and would like Staff to look into this.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry offered his congratulations to both the graduating Biddeford High School Seniors and Middle School 8th Graders. He wished them all well as they move on to their next venture.

Mayor Addressing the Council: had the following items:

- 1) Mayor Casavant also offered his congratulations to the Seniors and 8th Graders graduating this year.
- 2) He and Councilor Clearwater marched in the Memorial Day Parade and he was very pleased to see so many more people than ever lining the streets of Biddeford. He feels that this speaks to the increasing pride that citizens have for our City.
- 3) He too has heard complaints about the big stone planters on Main Street. He did remind folks that the planters have been placed in such a way to slow down traffic and keep drivers more aware and alert.
- 4) He ran into a former student who had moved away from Biddeford and was recently back in Biddeford and had walked downtown. He expressed to the Mayor how impressed he is with all the new development and revitalization that is happening.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk