

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 17, 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 (joined virtually), Scott Whiting, Martin Grohman, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain, Doris Ortiz

Marc Lessard was excused.

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Proclamation: Kids to Park Day – May 21, 2022

Mayor Casavant read the Proclamation.

Recognition:

- ***‘cause Digital Marketing – Maine SBA Home-Based Business of the Year***
- ***Deepwater Buoyancy – Maine International Exporter of the Year***

Councilor Grohman introduced *‘cause Digital Marketing* and *Deepwater Buoyancy*, both businesses that have recently received Small Business Association Awards.

David Capotosto spoke on behalf of *Deepwater Buoyancy* that was awarded ***Maine International Exporter of the Year***. He explained that his company creates subsea buoyancy products for oceanographic, offshore oil & gas and technology companies around the world. Customers have relied on their products for over forty years, from the ocean surface to depths exceeding six thousand meters. They ship products to over 40 different countries. Also present was Matthew Henry, Operations Manager and part owner, and Dan Cote, Sales Manager and part owner.

Jane Harrell, the owner of *‘cause Digital Marketing* and winner of the ***Maine SBA Home-Based Business of the Year*** gave an explanation of what her company does. She has created a business that works with small and large pet businesses alike to bring focus, industry insights, genuine social and corporate responsibility and results.

Nomination to MMA’s 2022-2024 Legislative Policy Committee:

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to nominate City Manager James Bennett to the MMA’s 2022-2024 Legislative Policy Committee.

Vote: Unanimous.

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

One citizen addressed her comments to the Council.

Consideration of Minutes: **May 3, 2022; May 10, 2022**

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Mills to accept the minutes of May 3, 2022 as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to accept the minutes of May 10, 2022 as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2022.35

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 17, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager or his designee be authorized to sign a unit cost contract with Bowdoin Excavation, LLC of Gray, Maine for the construction of the Bradbury-Mason Street sewer separation project as per the bid submitted and opened on April 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$207,464.50.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that \$62,535.50 be allocated for change orders, inspections, and administrative fees.

Funding for this project will be as follows:

- \$270,000 from the Sewer Separation Bonds approved by voters and as provided for in account code 22PW03 – Bradbury/Mason Bond proceeds.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will review this item at their May 17th, 2022 meeting.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.36 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.....MAY 17, 2022**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to sign an agreement with Runyon Kersteen Ouellette (RKO) for annual financial audit services for FY2022 (\$75,000), FY2023 (\$77,250), FY2024 (\$79,500), FY2025 (\$81,900), and FY2026 (\$84,300) for a cumulative contract price of \$397,950.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that additional services shall be charged at the “rates for additional work” specified in the RKO proposal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that authorization for any additional work shall be in writing and comply with the City of Biddeford purchasing policy and rules.

NOTE: The Finance Committee is scheduled to review this item on May 17, 2022 as part of the published agenda.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.37 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MAY 17, 2022**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the purchase of an 2023 Automated Side Loader Garbage Truck with Cab and Chassis from Environmental Equipment Sales & Service of Oxford, Massachusetts , with trade-ins, in an amount not to exceed \$220,000. Funding for this vehicle will come from the FY22 Capital Improvement Projects Fund.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Manager be authorized to lease-purchase one (1) 2023 Automated Side Loader Garbage Truck with Cab and Chassis as per bid of May 9, 2022 (the “Equipment”) from Environmental Equipment Sales & Service of Oxford, Massachusetts (the “Vendor”) and may pay the Vendor an amount not to exceed \$240,000 (after trade-in allowance of \$20,000; and a payment of \$150,000 in cash) for the Equipment as follows:

1. The City of Biddeford expects to incur debt to reimburse expenditures to pay the cost of the Equipment;
2. The City of Biddeford reasonably expects that the maximum principal amount of the debt, including for reimbursement purposes, is \$240,000.00;
3. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to enter into a lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement for the Equipment provided that (a) the principal amount of such agreement will not exceed \$240,000.00, (b) the term of such agreement will not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) months and (c) any obligation of the City of Biddeford to make lease or loan payments pursuant to such agreement is subject to annual appropriation by the City Council of the City of Biddeford;
4. The City Manager is authorized to advance money from the General Fund of the City for payment of the costs of the Equipment; and
5. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, is authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, deliver and cause to be performed, and to approve, any and all agreements, instruments, certificates and other documents, and to grant security interests in the

Equipment, upon such terms, conditions, limitations and undertakings, which the City Manager determines are necessary and proper for the acquisition and financing of the Equipment, provided that any lease purchase, loan or other financing agreement will be countersigned by both the Mayor and the Treasurer of the City of Biddeford. Without limiting the foregoing, the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Biddeford, in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment, is authorized to sell, transfer, trade in or otherwise dispose of any equipment, which the City Manager determines is no longer useful to the City of Biddeford.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will review this item at their May 17, 2022 meeting and vote to recommend it to the City Council for approval. The lease-purchase of this item is included in the FY23 Capital Improvement Projects Fund.

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

2022.38 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MAY 17, 2022**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is authorized to execute a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) substantially in the form presented between the City of Biddeford and Devine Capital, LLC (“Devine Capital”).

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Manager and City Solicitor are authorized to negotiate the final terms of the JDA with Devine Capital to support new construction of a 216-unit residential Multi-Family Apartment Complex Project to include critical terms and conditions identified by the City Council and as referenced as “developer commitments” within the supporting memo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City Manager shall be authorized to execute the JDA which includes the above terms and conditions provided, however, that the City Manager shall not be authorized to execute the JDA unless and until the City Solicitor has reviewed the JDA to confirm that the JDA includes the City Council’s directive regarding the attached critical terms and conditions.

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

Councilor Clearwater suggested adding language in the JDA that would allow for possible future development by the Maine Turnpike Authority. City Manager Jim Bennett agreed that such language should be included in the JDA.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.39 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MAY 17, 2022**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby advise the Planning Board of its endorsement of the concept of Contract Zone #21 for Devine Capital, LLC as outlined in the letter from Devine Capital LLC dated February 28, 2022 and as such, per Biddeford Code of Ordinances, Part III (Land Development Regulations), Article V (Establishment of Zones), Section 9.F.2, the City Council advises the applicant to continue with the Contact Zone process.

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

2022.40 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MAY 17, 2022**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the raising of a Pride Flag on the City Hall flagpole for the month of June in honor of LBGTQ+ Pride Month.

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

1st Reading of School Department Budget – FY23

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Mills to remove all the Budget Orders from the table.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022

WHEREAS, the Maine Dept. of Education has determined the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, for Biddeford, as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act to be **\$31,736,063.**

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does appropriate and will raise the sum of **\$18,761,513** for the Biddeford School Department's contribution to the total cost of funding public education for kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2-A, section 15688.

Explanation: The Biddeford School Department's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does appropriate and will raise the sum of **\$2,427,070** for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the City Council for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the City of Biddeford's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the municipality's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was approved by the voters.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council will raise and appropriate **\$2,218,899** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$2,218,899** as required to fund the budget recommended by the Biddeford School Committee.

The Biddeford School Committee recommends **\$2,218,899** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$2,218,899.**

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Biddeford budget for educational programs.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Whiting to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does hereby authorize the Biddeford School Committee to expend \$41,657,840 or the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 from the City of Biddeford’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools, and broken down as follows:

REGULAR INSTRUCTION	\$15,218,285
SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 7,695,016
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	\$ 3,203,327
OTHER INSTRUCTION	\$ 761,182
STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT	\$ 2,740,457
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,223,643
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,610,453
TRANSPORTATION & BUSES	\$ 1,723,621
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	\$ 4,029,043
DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS	\$ 3,405,735
ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	\$ 47,078
TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET	<u>\$41,657,840</u>

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the School Department is authorized to accept grant funds during the fiscal year and to expend such funds for the purposes for which they are intended.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of \$749,066 for ADULT EDUCATION for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and does hereby appropriate and will raise the local share for ADULT EDUCATION in the amount of \$321,588.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that Biddeford Adult Education is authorized to expend any additional, incidental or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the wellbeing of the Adult Education Program.

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum \$1,709,640 for School FOOD SERVICE (“Hot Lunch”) for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of \$1,709,640 in estimated revenues is adopted in support of FOOD SERVICE, with a local share for FOOD SERVICE in the amount of \$0.

Motion by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby adopt the following estimated revenues and appropriations from fund balance in support of the general fund budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

School Estimated Revenue:	
Education:	\$ 617,816
Adult Education:	\$ 195,376
State Allocation to Education:	\$ 15,881,268
Appropriations from Fund Balance, K-12:	\$ 1,751,274
Appropriation from Fund Balance, Adult Education:	\$ 232,102
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS FROM FUND BALANCE:	\$ 18,677,836

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

1st Reading of City Government Budget – FY23

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$38,391,757** for the CITY GENERAL FUND budget excluding Schools, Adult Education, TIF Funding and County Tax for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, broken down as follows:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$12,015,619
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$11,843,136
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 5,415,014
PUBLIC SERVICES	\$2,957,522
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 4,410,465
CAPITAL OUTLAYS	\$ 1,625,000
CONTINGENCY	\$ 125,000
TOTAL	\$38,391,757

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger to amend the City Government budget as follows:

- Increase General Administration (21111) by \$35,000 for audit services
- Reduce General Administration (21111) by \$40,000 for retiree payouts
- Reduce Finance (21106) by \$16,425 for other professional consulting services
- Reduce Assessing (21105) by \$10,000 for Department Head salary
- Reduce Fringe Benefits (21179) by \$2,061for Assessing Dept. Head benefits
- Increase Fringe Benefits (21179) by \$119,997 for Allegiant and MMEHT insurance adjustments
- Reduce Fire Department (21141) by \$10,000 for extra holiday pay
- Reduce Solid Waste Management (21164) by \$7,985 for non-burnable disposal expense
- Reduce Capital Outlays (21201) by \$25,000 for trash collection vehicle

For revised budget numbers:

General Government	\$12,105,772
Public Safety	\$11,833,136

Public Works	\$ 5,407,029
Public Services	\$ 2,957,522
Debt Service	\$ 4,410,465
Capital Outlays	\$ 1,600,000
Contingency	\$ 125,000
Contingency	<u>\$38,438,924</u>

Vote on amendments: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to further amend by increasing Debt Service by \$125,000.
Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on first reading of the budget order: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby adopt the following estimated revenues and appropriations from fund balance in support of the general fund budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

City Estimated Revenues:

Other Non-Property Tax Revenue:	\$ 9,626,065
State Revenue Sharing:	\$ 4,125,000
Homestead:	\$ 1,043,610
BETE:	\$ 372,838
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS:	<u>\$ 15,167,513</u>

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Whiting to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to amend to reduce Finance Revenue (24150) by \$28,086 for contract administrative services.
Vote: Unanimous.

For revised numbers:	
Other Non-Property Tax Revenue:	\$ 9,597,969
State Revenue Sharing:	\$ 4,125,000
Homestead:	\$ 1,043,610
BETE:	\$ 372,838
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS:	<u>\$ 15,139,417</u>

Vote on first reading, as amended: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum o, f **\$238,780** for the Biddeford Airport comprised of \$238,780 for the AIRPORT OPERATIONS FUND and \$0 in reimbursable grant expenses for the AIRPORT REIMBURSABLE IMPROVEMENT FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that estimated revenues to the Biddeford Airport Fund in the sum of **\$547,770** comprised of \$547,770 for the AIPORT OPERTIONS FUND and \$0 for the AIRPORT REIMBURSABLE IMPROVEMENT FUND be hereby adopted in support of the Biddeford Airport appropriation.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$1,557,000** for the AMBULANCE FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of **\$1,425,000** in estimated revenues to the Ambulance Fund be hereby adopted in support of the Ambulance Fund appropriation.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$438,001** for the CDBG PROGRAM FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of **\$439,734** in estimated revenues to the CDBG PROGRAM FUND be hereby adopted in support of the CDBG Program appropriation.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$41,200** for the MOORING FEES FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of **\$41,200** in estimated revenues to the Mooring Fees Fund be hereby adopted in support of the Mooring Fees Fund appropriation.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$175,705** for the POOL BEACH PERMITS FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of **\$176,750** in estimated revenues to the Pool Beach Permits Fund be hereby adopted in support of the Pool Beach Permits Fund appropriation.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL.. MAY 10, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby appropriate the sum of **\$796,024** for the RECREATION PROGRAMS FUND for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the sum of **\$796,024** in estimated revenues to the Recreation Programs Fund be hereby adopted in support of the Recreation Programs Fund appropriation.

Sewer Operations Fund:

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to grant the first reading of the budget order.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Whiting to approve the Sewer Operations Fund as recommended by the Budget Committee, with the following amendments:

- 35102-60605
 - Main Street Separation – reduction of \$60,000 (\$150,000 down to \$90,000)
 - Master Plan Update – reduction of \$45,000 (\$100,000 down to \$55,000)
 - Catch Basin Removal – reduction of \$35,000 (\$100,000 down to \$65,000)
- 35104-60313:
 - Sewer Rehab – reduction of \$100,000 (from \$100,000 down to \$0.00)
 - Sewer Cleaning Services – reduction of \$10,000 (from \$50,000 down to \$40,000)
- 35105-60342:
 - PFAS Fee – reduction of \$24,750; legislation did not pass (from \$24,750 down to \$0.00)

To further amend to establish a reserve account for sewer rehabilitation projects in the amount of \$100,000 to be replenished annually by the amount expended in the previous fiscal year.

Vote on the amendments: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills to adopt Statement 8, as is; and Statement 9 with \$100,000 less in the cash position.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on first reading, as amended: Unanimous.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MAY 17, 2022

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

**Sean P. Murphy
6 Hansons Lane
Ward 1**

to the *Harbor Commission*, for a term to expire in December 2025.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):

There were no public comments.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett had the following items:

- He thanked the Council for all their hard work on the budget. In the face of a very challenging budget season, the Council was able to work towards an overall favorable budget. From what he can ascertain, there are not many surrounding communities who can claim that their citizens are paying less in taxes now than in 2014.
- Last Friday, the City was notified that our bond rating was going up. If this had not happened, the City could be looking at an interest rate of about 4-4.05% instead of the 3.8% that is expected. This translates to a substantial savings for the community. Jim also noted that new to the bond rating process was the review of the City's cybersecurity and climate change initiatives, both of which the City has made great advances in.

Other Business:

Councilor Clearwater: announced that the Heart of Biddeford recently won the **2022 Great American Main Street Award** for Biddeford, which is a huge national achievement and a part of the reason why the City has been able to keep the tax rate down – through continuing development in the downtown and not just in residential properties. This Friday night, May 20th, there will be a celebration for this Award in conjunction with the Art Walk. She encouraged everyone to join in the celebration and to participate in the big raffle going on through the Heart of Biddeford for a stay at the new Lincoln Hotel.

Councilor Grohman: announced that the Recycling & Waste Center was open this past Sunday, and will be open again this coming Sunday, May 22nd from 7:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Councilor LaFountain: reminded folks of the upcoming June 14th Election and the availability of absentee ballots for that election through the City Clerk’s Office.

He shared that he has been involved in some constituent emails about the traffic on May Street and in the area of the Mayfield, specifically speed, traffic and safety. City Manager Jim Bennett provided an update on this: traffic monitoring equipment has been set up on May Street and will be there for the next week or so. He feels that this issue should not necessarily be looked at as a speed issue, but more as a quality of life issue and possibly approach it as a traffic calming issue.

Councilor Mills: mentioned that he and his wife were able to tour the newly renovated Lincoln Mill and he thinks the work that has been done there is phenomenal.

He is glad to hear about the possibility of bringing back the “*Heart and Soul*” program that the Heart of Biddeford had sponsored about 10-12 years ago.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor Belanger offered his thanks to prior Councils and to the City Manager for looking forward and doing what needed to be done in order to bring up the City’s bond rating.

He congratulated the Heart of Biddeford for winning the **2022 Great American Main Street Award**; and especially offered praise to their Director, Delilah Poupore for her tireless efforts and vision. She and all who work with the Heart of Biddeford have been major contributors to Biddeford’s Renaissance.

He thanked his fellow Councilors for all their work during the arduous budget process. With the end of this process in sight, he encouraged the Councilors to start bringing up those issues that had been put off and need to be addressed.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant also congratulated the Heart of Biddeford. He offered a different perspective by reminiscing about time in the City during the 1970s and 1980s when things were much different. He noted that the change has been remarkable and he attributes that to those who had the guts to make the difficult decisions, to invest in development in the City, and to work hard for a better community. He further recognized City Staff for doing everything possible to support the vision to move the City forward.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:49 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Bernier, City Clerk