

**COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 7, 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 meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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

Adjustment to the Agenda:

- Add Autism Awareness Month Proclamation

Public Hearing: Biddeford School Department Revolving Renovation Bond

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m.

Consent Agreement: Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry – Bureau of Parks & Land re: Biddeford Pool Yacht Club Dredging Proposal

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the Consent Agreement.

Vote: Unanimous.

Proclamation: Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Casavant read the proclamation. He thanked Councilor Quattrone for bringing this forward and for all his efforts with the Finding the Pieces Autism Camp.

Consideration of Minutes: March 3, 2020; March 5, 2020; March 26, 2020

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the March 3, 2020 council meeting minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the March 5, 2020 council meeting minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the March 26, 2020 council meeting minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Second Reading:

{For a copy of the Bond Order and the first reading, see the Special Council Meeting minutes of March 31, 2020}

2020.16) Authorization/Biddeford School Revolving Renovation Fund Financing/Bonds for Health, Safety and Compliance Repairs at School Facilities for June 9, 2020 Municipal Referendum Election

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Belanger to grant the second reading of the order.

Vote: Unanimous.

Order of the Day:

2020.20

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..APRIL 7, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council at the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the execution of two contracts to assist in implementing the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant Program, as follows:

- 1) A three-year fee-for-service contract with Community Concepts, Inc., for Lead Program professional and management services, with a total cost not to exceed \$431,000; and

- 2) A three-year lump-sum service contract with University of New England's Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition Program, for community outreach and resident education services, with a total cost of \$127,578.

NOTE: Both contracts will be funded in full by the City's HUD Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant Program, which totals \$3,246,744. The Finance Committee will review this item at their April 7, 2020 meeting.

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

Vote: 7/2; Councilors Lessard and St. Cyr opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz in favor.

Motion carries.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...APRIL 7, 2020

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

**Catherine Glynn
179 Hill Street
Ward 4**

to the *Historic Preservation Commission*, replacing Jeffrey Dobson, Jr., for a term to expire in December 2021.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...APRIL 7, 2020

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

**Abigail Carroll
13 Thorndike Avenue
Ward 1**

to the *Shellfish Conservation Committee*. for a term to expire in December 2022.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

City Manager Report:

City Manager, James Bennett had for the following updates:

- (1) In regards to the FY21 Budget preparation and process, he and School Superintendent, Jeremy Ray are working on coming up with revised, reduced budgets to be presented to the Council at the beginning of May. He did note that due to COVID-19, there is a good chance the FY21 Budget will not be approved until mid to late June.
- (2) The Finance Committee has asked to receive the updated financials. Jim is going to ask the Acting Finance Director, Gerry Matherne to work on that and will get the requested information out to the Council as soon as possible.
- (3) Jim thanked the community, the Council, the City Employees and all the volunteers for all their efforts during these challenging times. He expressed his gratitude for the various ways the community has shown support to the City Employees.

Other Business:

Councilor Ready: expressed his concern about the next Planning Board meeting being held via ZOOM, and the fact that the Courthouse project will be considered at that meeting. He stressed the importance that Staff figure out a way to allow public comment and input during that discussion, especially since there have been concerns expressed by the neighbors in this area.

He suggested that Staff look into possibly allowing citizens to bring their yard waste to the Recycling Center since the Center is now open for large item drop off.

Councilor Lessard: in response to the City Manager’s comments about bringing forward a revised/reduced FY21 Budget, he noted that he is comfortable with the expense side of the budget, and suggested that any proposed additions to Staff be included in the Contingency Fund. He explained that this would allow the Council to move the money when and where it may be needed, which is important in light of the COVID-19 situation.

Councilor McCurry: also touched on the FY21 Budget, and let the City Manager know that if a revised and reduced budget is going to be brought forward, he wants to see justifications for the reductions and how staffing and services will be affected by the reductions.

He agrees with Councilor Ready in regards to opening the Recycling Center, not only for large item drop off, but also for disposal of yard waste. He would like to see this happen and stop the curbside collection of yard waste. He feels this would be safer for the Public Works Employees.

Councilor St. Cyr: along with the updated financials that he has requested, he would also like to see a list of on-going economic development projects throughout the City – like the Lincoln Mill Redevelopment, Riverdam, the parking garage, etc.

Mayor Casavant asked the City Manager to address some of the suggestions and requests brought up by the Councilors. Jim offered the following:

- The Lincoln Mill and Riverdam projects are moving forward. In fact, Riverdam closed on the property today. The parking garage is also still progressing.
- He will talk with Public Works Director, Jeff Demers about possibly modifying the staffing at the Recycling Center in order to offer more services.
- He assured the Council that Staff members continue to work on setting ZOOM meetings in such a way that would allow public participation and comment.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant reported that most of the people who have reached out to him have had positive comments about how City Staff has and continues to handle the current COVID-19 situation. He is so proud of how City Staff has risen to the current challenges at every level.

He reminded the citizens that there is a lot of information the City has put out in various ways, including the City’s website, the City’s Facebook page, Twitter account and of course, the weekly Biddeford Beat.

He is hearing concerns from citizens about access to the beaches. Thus far, he has not seen keeping the beaches open as an issue, and urges folks to continue keeping social distances at all times.

He thanked the Council for their patience in working through the whole virtual meeting process. He also thanked City Manager, James Bennett for his leadership throughout this whole ordeal, from his ability to anticipate what needs to be done to reacting to whatever issues arise.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:03 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk