

**COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2021**

*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 6:00 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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Proclamation: Week of the Young Child – April 10-16, 2021

Mayor Casavant read the proclamation.

Consideration of Minutes: **March 16, 2021**

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2021.27

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..APRIL 6, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approve the purchase of two (2) 2021 Ford Explorer utility police cars as per bid from Quirk Auto Group of Augusta, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$56,820.00. The purchase of this vehicle is included in the FY21 CIP Budget, line 21204-60603.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will consider this item at their April 6, 2021 meeting and vote to recommend to the City Council for consideration.

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

Councilor Clearwater asked to abstain from this vote:

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr to allow Councilor Clearwater to abstain from this vote.

Vote: 5/3; Councilors McCurry, Lessard and Ortiz opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Belanger and Ready in favor.

Motion to allow Councilor Clearwater to abstain carries.

Vote on order: 6/2; Councilors Ortiz and Ready opposed.

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

Councilor Clearwater in abstention.

Motion carries.

2021.28

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..APRIL 6, 2021

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 Adams Point, LP as outlined in the letter from Southern Maine Affordable Housing dated March 18, 2021, 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 Contract Zoning process.

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

Vote: 8/1; Councilor McCurry opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

2021.29

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...APRIL 6, 2021

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Biddeford, Maine to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Biddeford as follows:

Part III (Land Development Regulations), Article III (Official Zoning Map), is amended to rezone 1 Enterprise Drive (Tax Map 17, Lot 7-3), part of 451 Alfred Street (Tax Map 17, Lot 7-2) and part of 457 Alfred Street (Tax Map 17, Lot 7) from Industrial-3 (I-3) to Industrial-1 (I-1).

Note: Following a duly noticed Public Hearing the Planning Board recommended with a 3-1 vote that this amendment be approved.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ortiz to grant the first reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: 2/7; Councilors St. Cyr and Belanger in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, Quattrone, Clearwater, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

2021.30

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...APRIL 6, 2021

A Resolution of the Biddeford City Council:

WHEREAS, there is a need to alleviate motor vehicle traffic congestion within the City of Biddeford, as well as neighboring communities with Maine Turnpike exits; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the traffic congestion is generated from outside of the City of Biddeford by those who are traveling from smaller neighboring communities in order to access the Maine Turnpike; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a westerly access to Exit 32 and the growing sprawl of communities to the west of Biddeford has increased traffic within the City; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have estimated that upwards of twenty percent of the traffic traveling through downtown Biddeford is moving through the City with the sole purpose of accessing the Maine Turnpike; and

WHEREAS, increasing commuter traffic through the City adversely impacts the quality of life of Biddeford residents with adverse environmental impacts; increasing risks to pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle occupants; and increases the property tax burden for operations and future capital costs; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated costs to make the necessary improvements to the transportation system within the City of Biddeford to address traffic issues related to the current Exit 32 would greatly exceed the expected costs to add a new Turnpike exit within the City limits of Biddeford.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Biddeford City Council does hereby support the construction of a new full Maine Turnpike Authority exit north of the current Exit 32, believing this additional exit would be a regional benefit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by this official act, the City of Biddeford seeks and requests the Maine Turnpike Authority, Governor Janet Mills, the Maine Legislature and the Biddeford Legislative Delegation to take any action necessary to support this official action.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the resolution.

Vote: 5/4; Councilors Clearwater, Ortiz, Ready and Emhiser opposed.

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

Motion carries.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...APRIL 6, 2021

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

**Katie Tomai
31 Crescent Street, Apt. 102
Ward 5**

to the *Solid Waste Management Commission*, for a term to expire in December 2024.

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 shared with the Council that often times, City Staff does something without being asked or instructed, with beneficial results to the community. Recently, Roby Fecteau, the City's Code Enforcement Officer, along with the assistance of City Clerk Carmen Morris and other Department Heads, has coordinated with Maine EMS to bring a COVID vaccination clinic to Biddeford. On April 27th a vaccination clinic will dispense 500 vaccines, with all appointments already filled. This is an example of how Staff notices what needs to be done and goes out and makes it happen. Jim publicly acknowledged Roby and the others who have been involved and commended the team.
Councilor Emhiser concurred with Jim's commendation.

There was no *Other Business*.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry noted that the first Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget was held on April 1st and was poorly attended by the public. He is hopeful that the budget information is getting out to the public and the public is aware of what is being presented in the FY22 budget.

Executive Session:

- **1 MRSA 405(6)(D)...Labor Contract Discussion**
- **1 MRSA 405(6)(C)...Real Estate Matter**
- **1 MRSA 405(6)(E)...Consultation with City Attorney**

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to move into Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:13 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Belanger to move out of Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:31 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to adjourn.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:31 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk