

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 1, 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 Budget Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Doris Ortiz was excused.

Public Hearing: FY22 Proposed City Government & School Department Budgets

Mayor Casavant opened the Public Hearing at 5:32 p.m. He explained that each speaker would have 3 minutes to address the Committee.

A couple citizens spoke on the proposed FY22 budgets.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:38 p.m.

Discussion on FY22 Proposed City Government & School Department Budgets:

Councilor McCurry suggested that the Committee go through each individual budget and vote on those that are ready to be moved on and set aside those that will warrant discussion.

A couple of the Councilors expressed concerned with this approach, stating that they want to have the ability to revisit budgets that have essentially been “moved forward.” City Manager, Jim Bennett assured the Committee that even if a budget is “moved forward,” there are still opportunities for the Committee and Council to make amendments.

The overall consensus of the Committee was to go along with Councilor McCurry’s suggestion and vote to move some of the budgets forward.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the following budgets forward:

- Mayor/Council
- City Manager
- City Clerk
- Elections/Voter Registration
- Assessing
- Finance

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the following budgets forward:

- Human Resources

- City Hall Building

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the following budgets forward:

- Private Schools
- Health & Welfare

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the following budgets forward:

- Biddeford Pool Fire Dept.
- Emergency Management

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the following budgets forward:

- Police Investigative Services
- Communications (PD)
- Animal Control Officer
- Street & Traffic Lights
- PW Admin/Fleet Maintenance
- Public Works Roads Maintenance

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to move the following budgets forward:

- Cemetery
- Engineering
- GIS Division

Vote: Unanimous.

City Manager, Jim Bennett suggested that the Budget Committee cancel meetings that have been scheduled between tonight's meeting and April 22nd. He explained that this would give Staff time to gather the pertinent information for the Budget Committee to make more definitive decisions on some of the individual budgets. By April 22nd, Staff should be able to report out excise tax amounts for March and a good idea for April; the next revenue sharing payment (which is expected by or on April 20th); the guidelines for the use of the ARP Funds; a better understanding of the wastewater budget; and recommendations on the \$957,500 from FY21 funds.

The Committee agreed to cancel the Budget Committee meetings until April 22nd, with the understanding that the City Manager will provide all pertinent information by April 16th.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:47 p.m.