

City of Biddeford
City Council
February 20, 2024 6:00 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

Status:

1. Roll Call - all present

Council President LaFountain
Councilor Lessard
Councilor Ortiz
Councilor Emhiser - via Zoom
Councilor Whiting
Councilor Beaupre
Councilor Mills
Councilor Schlaver
Councilor Belanger - via Zoom

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

There will be no presentation

Orders of the Day 10.a. to 10.f. will be discussed in reverse order

4. Presentation

5. Appointments:

- 5.a. 2024.19) Approval/Mayoral Council Appointment to DEI Committee
[20240220 Council Appointment to DEI Committee -ORDER](#)

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Mills

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Via Zoom Councilors Emhiser and Belanger voted yea.
Motion passed.

- 5.b. 2024.20) Approval/Mayoral Appointments to Citizen Committees
[20240220 Application - Bistra Nikiforova- DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application- Anne Morrissey- DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application -Florence Leighton - DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application- Jeffrey Purser-DDC](#)
[20240220 Application- Ken Jordan-DDC](#)
[20240220 Application-Andrew Lovely -DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application-Breese Reagle- DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application-Maura Oakes -DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application-Sarai Manyiel -DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Application-Syed Zafar-DEI Committee](#)
[20240220 Mayoral Appointments Citizen Committees- Appointments](#)

Motion: Councilor Schlaver

Second: Councilor Mills

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Via Zoom Councilors Emhiser and Belanger voted yea.

Motion passed.

6. Public Hearing

6.a. Public Hearing Dizzy Birds Rotisserie Liquor License new usage

[Dizzy Birds Rotisserie public hearing notice 2-20-24](#)

Public Hearing opened at 6:04pm

There were no public comments

Public Hearing closed at 6:05 pm

7. Liquor License Consideration

7.a. Liquor License Approval - Dizzy Birds Rotisserie, new usage.

[Dizzy Birds Rotisserie liquor license application](#)

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Schlaver

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Via Zoom Councilors Emhiser and Belanger voted yea.

Motion passed.

8. Public Addressing the Council...(3 minute limit per speaker for up to a total of 15 minutes)

Don Bisson gave an overview of the work that the Biddeford Food Pantry does to serve the community.

One citizen commented about the unhoused situation.

9. Consideration of Minutes:

9.a. Approval Council Minutes 2-6-24

[Council minutes 2-6-24](#)

Motion: Councilor Mills

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Via Zoom Councilors Emhiser and Belanger voted yea.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day:

10.a. 2024.21) Approval/Authorization for Temporary Road Repairs

[Storm Damage Temp Repairs](#)

[Temp repairs ORDER](#)

[Bid tab](#)

[Storm Repair RFB](#)

[Foglio Bid](#)

[Grondin Bid](#)
[Shaws Bid](#)

Motion: Councilor Whiting
Second: Councilor Lessard

Public Works Director Jeff Demers spoke about the project and reminded everyone of the work beginning on Alfred Street in the next few weeks.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 10.b 2024.22) Approval/Maine Service Center Coalition Representative
[20240220 Maine Service Center Coalition Representative -ORDER](#)
[Maine Service Centers Coalition 2024 Representative](#)

Motion: Councilor Schlaver
Second: Councilor Lessard
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 10.c. 2024.23) Approval/Stabilization Payment Biddeford Riverwalk Community 1, LLC
[20240220 Approval Stabilization Payment Biddeford Riverwalk Community 1, LLC - BRIEF](#)
[20240220 Approval Stabilization Payment Biddeford Riverwalk Community 1, LLC - ORDER](#)
[20240220 Biddeford Parking Stabilization Payment Calculation and Forecast - REFERENCE](#)
[20240220 Stabilization Payment 5, Biddeford Riverwalk Community 1, LLC - INVOICE.docx](#)

Motion: Councilor Lessard
Second: Councilor Schlaver

There was a review of how this works and what the City's obligation is. Several Councilors had questions and comments about using the money differently for marketing promotions. The Downtown Committee will be discussing the Premium Parking recommendations at their next meeting.

City Manager Jim Bennett brought this to the Council for transparency, it is an important issue. However, it is a contractual obligation and does not need to be voted on.

Mayor Grohman moved on from the discussion. There was no vote.

- 10.d 2024.24) Approval/Authorize Creation of Ad Hoc Veterans Committee and Appointment
[20240220 Mayors Ad Hoc Veterans Committee-ORDER](#)

Motion: Councilor Beaupre
Second: Councilor LaFountain
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 10.e. 2024.25) Approval/Authorization Joint Development Agreement for Marble Block Project
[2-20-2024 Marble Block JDA - BRIEF](#)
[2-20-2024 Marble Block JDA - ORDER](#)
[20240214 Final Draft JDA - Marble Block](#)
[Marble Block - New Facade Design](#)
[Marble Block - Schematic Plans \(080723\)](#)

Motion: Councilor Beaupre
Second: Councilor Mills

Heart of Biddeford Director Delilah Poupore spoke in favor of the project and shared information that has been gathered from local businesses.

Economic Development Director George Gervais explained the major elements of the JDA. He answered questions about the timeline and the triggers for each phase.

Several Councilors had concerns with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund payment being made in increments versus a lump sum at the beginning and also the timing of the phases.

City Manager Jim Bennett explained how the project financing has evolved and that the developers listened to previous feedback and came back with an improved plan.

Several Councilors spoke about the Marble Block building, its history, challenges and lengthy vacancy.

Councilors Schlaver and Belanger both spoke about the list of positive benefits this would bring to the City.

Vote: 6 yeas – Councilors Schlaver, Whiting, Beaupre and Mills in person;
Councilors Emhiser and Belanger via zoom.
3 nays – Councilors Lessard, Ortiz and LaFountain.
Motion passed.

- 10.f. 2024.26) Approval/Fire Department Contract 2024
[20240220 Fire Contract Approval- ORDER](#)

Motion: Councilor Beaupre
Second: Councilor Mills

Councilor Lessard asked questions about the language.
City Manager Jim Bennett explained the major changes to the contract, the number of vacancies in the department and the market conditions effecting recruiting efforts.
Vote: 8 yeas – Councilors LaFountain, Ortiz, Whiting, Beaupre, Mills and Schlaver in person; Councilors Emhiser and Belanger via zoom.
1 nay – Councilor Lessard.
Motion passed.

11. Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker)

One citizen had concerns about loose dogs in the Westmore Avenue area.
Another citizen spoke about the unhoused.

12. City Manager Report

City Manager Bennett explained that the amounts the City uses in the General Assistance program are public information. Other portions of the GA program are confidential by State law. He also spoke about the City's efforts to assist the unhoused last summer. He will follow up with the citizen regarding the loose dogs. If anyone has concerns about daily operations they should reach out to his office.

13. Other Business

Councilor Lessard would like to work on the solutions for the unhoused.

14. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain requested an update from staff about the existing JDAs and their progress.

15. Mayor Addressing the Council

Reminded everyone that there will be budget discussions soon.

16. Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Whiting
Second: Councilor Schlaver
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm