

**COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

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, Marc Lessard

Doris Ortiz was excused.

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Presentation: National Night Out Award – Family Fun Festival

Mayor Casavant recognized CDBG Coordinator, Linda Holmes and Recreation Director, Carl Walsh for the planning, organization and putting on the Family Fun Festival (formerly known as the Bacon Street Festival). He noted that Biddeford competed nationwide for this award and was the only Maine community to receive the National Night Out Award. Even more impressive is the fact that this is the 9th year straight that Biddeford has received this award.

Presentation: Census 2020

Sterling Roop, Partnership Specialist with the New York Regional Census Center explained the importance of why everyone should be counted in the 2020 Census. He cited such reasons as the Census numbers help to determine services that the community will receive funding for, from children or the elderly. He stressed that Census information that is collected is protected and not shared in any way, shape or form. There are numerous ways to respond to the Census, including phone, online, paper ballot and/or a visit from a Census representative. The Heart of Biddeford is leading the *Complete Count Committee* in Biddeford and is working on getting the word out and provide ways for folks to be counted. The McArthur Library and Seeds of Hope are also involved in assisting to ensure those who may not have direct online or phone access can be counted. Sterling will work with the City to help get the word out via the City's social media sources, website, etc.

Appointment: Maine Service Center Coalition

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to nominate City Manager, James Bennett as a member, representing Biddeford, to the Maine Service Center Coalition; and further, to allow City Clerk, Carmen Morris to sign and attest the appointment form.

Vote: Unanimous.

Consent Agreement: MDOT – Construction Overlimit Permit

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Lessard to enter into the Consent Agreement with Maine Department of Transportation for a Construction Overlimit Permit.

Vote: Unanimous.

Consideration of Minutes: February 4, 2020

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2020.11

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..FEBRUARY 18, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Richardson & Associates to complete a design concept for the 3 Lincoln Park Green Space at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Funding for this project shall be from account 31179-61010.

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

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 provided the Council with a couple of Legislative Bills that he thinks the Council will want to keep an eye on. One Bill, if passed, would allow public employees (not including employees whose duties include protecting public safety) to strike. The second Bill, in a nutshell, would require a 3rd party arbitrator in labor relations to be selected from a panel of arbitrators who are appointed by the Governor from a list of nominations supplied by the Maine Labor Relations Board.

Other Business:

Councilor Lessard: shared that last week, Mayor Casavant, Councilor Ready and he met with the Saco Mayor and two Saco Councilors to discuss some of the things that both communities may be able to work on together. One of the items discussed was the Tri-City Transit, which encompasses Biddeford and Saco, as well as Old Orchard Beach. This group also discussed the continued sharing of a City Assessor. While Biddeford and Saco will undoubtedly have differing priorities, it was decided that both City Councils would be asked to budget money to go into a shared fund which would support shared projects that would be beneficial to both communities. He is hoping for Council support on this.

Councilor Ready: noted that the Personnel Committee, in a meeting earlier in the day, discussed that the Council take a stand on the two Legislative Bills that the City Manager spoke about in his report.

Councilor Clearwater: announced that the Heart of Biddeford is currently having a fundraiser called *Love Your Downtown Raffle*. She urged folks to see her or go right to the Heart of Biddeford office and purchase raffle tickets.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry recognized that Fire Chief, Scott Gagne has earned his Level 2 Certification.

He also recognized that the Biddeford High School Cheerleaders have won the State Championship once again this year.

He noted that the media recently reported that the City has seen a substantial increase in revenue for parking fees. He clarified that the increased revenue is not all from an increase in parking fines, but is also attributed to the sales of parking lot permits.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant thinks that there is still a lot of confusion from the public regarding the instituted parking plan, as well as the proposed parking garage. He fears that folks are missing the whole picture and why all parking decisions are intertwined. This only reinforces the need for more and better communication about what is happening in the City and how all the pieces fit together – from the parking garage, paid parking lots, the development of Lincoln Mill and 3 Lincoln Street Open Space.

He publicly thanked Joe McKenney, of McKenney Photography for all the pictures he took at the Inauguration, as well as all his efforts and contributions as a City Volunteer.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:33 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk