

**COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 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 6:04 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

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Remove Order 2021.18
- Add Order 2021.19 – Approval/Extension of Effective Date of Order 2021.1

Presentation: Community Garden at Rotary Park

Recreation Director, Carl Walsh presented. The Biddeford Community Gardens group, led by Holly Culloton, would like to create two garden areas at Rotary Park. This project is supported by the Recreation Commission. The group also plans to expand the community garden at Williams Court Park with additional raised beds. There is also a community garden located at Pierson's Lane. All three community gardens help to serve different areas of the City.

Update: Property Valuation

City Assessor, Nicholas Desjardins presented. Nick explained that the Assessor's Office works to: (1) focus on maintaining valuation equity throughout the City; (2) use quality rating, which is a statistical analysis used to measure equitability in assessments; and (3) abides by a Residential Study, which determines "Biddeford's Declared Certified Ratio," including single family and 2-4 unit properties. This ratio relates to the importance of State reimbursements to the City.

It was noted that the last citywide statistical evaluation was in 2014. The Council agrees that something needs to be done with the current evaluation sooner rather than later; however, the City must proceed cautiously and fairly for all Biddeford property owners.

Consideration of Minutes: February 2, 2021

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the minutes as printed.
Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2021.19 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL... FEBRUARY 16, 2021**
BE IT ORDERED, by the City Council of the City of Biddeford, Maine as follows:

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2021, the City Council after a second reading of Order No. 2021.1, adopted certain amendments to Part III (Land Development Regulations), Article II, Article V and Article VI; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2021, the City Council tabled Order No. 2021.16 proposing certain amendments to the City of Biddeford's Business Licensing Ordinance, Chapter 22 – Businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to delay the effective date of Order No. 2021.1 until the City Council has had an opportunity to take final action on Order No. 2021.16.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, THEREFORE, that Order No. 2021.1 shall take effect immediately upon the City Council taking final action on Order No. 2021.16.

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

Vote: 4/5; Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Ready and Lessard in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Quattrone, Clearwater, Belanger and Ortiz opposed.

Motion fails.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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

**Anne Nadzo
53 Harding Street
Ward 4**

to the *Downtown Development Commission*, replacing Stephanie Edwards, for a term to expire in December 2022.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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

**Liam LaFountain
242 Elm Street
Ward 7**

to the *Recreation Commission*, for a term to expire in December 2026.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker, 30 minute total time limit):
A few citizens addressed their comments and concerns to the Council.

There was no *City Manager Report*.

There was no *Other Business*.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant reminded folks that this is Winter Week in Biddeford. Winter Week is taking the place of what is typically Winter Fest. Folks can go on the Heart of Biddeford website and access the link/app to participate in the Winter Week Scavenger Hunt.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(C)...Real Estate Matter

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:24 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move out of Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:09 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to adjourn.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:09 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk