

COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held in-person in the Council Chambers, as well as virtually (via ZOOM),

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Scott Whiting, Martin Grohman, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain and 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: FY23 Capital Improvement Projects Budget

City Manager James Bennett gave a high level review of the proposed FY23 Capital Improvement Projects Budget. Jim stressed that the CIP Budget is a planning document, and not a funding mechanism. The CIP Budget is prepared each year as a guide for the Council to make decisions on what projects should be integrated into the actual City Government Budget.

Jim explained that the Council has direct responsibility over the following:

- Land
- Buildings
- Vehicles/Equipment
- Infrastructure
- Construction in Progress

Jim suggested that an annual CIP appropriations goal should be \$2,500,000; and to get to that, he further suggested:

- ✓ Phase in \$2.5 million appropriation over 3 years (\$250,000 per year)
- ✓ Use ‘excess’ for capital and/or onetime expenses
- ✓ Limit tax increases to grow in operational expenses; less new revenues

Public Addressing the Council... (3-minute limit per speaker for up to 15 minutes):

One citizen addressed his comments to the Council.

Consideration of Minutes: February 1, 2022

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Second Readings:

{For a copy of the ordinance amendments and first readings, see the Council Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022}

2022.8) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-99-No through trucks/ Add Round Hill Street

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the second reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: Unanimous.

2022.9) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-90-No Parking/ Add Lemieux Street

Motion by Councilor Mills, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the second reading of the ordinance amendment.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Lessard, Mills, Clearwater and Grohman opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Belanger and LaFountain in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in favor to break the tie.

Motion carries.

2021.132) Amendment/Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-66-Beach permit parking regulations enumerated/Increase in Beach Permit Fees

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger to grant the second reading of the ordinance amendment.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor Mills to amend the ordinance by removing all charges for resident beach permits.

Vote: 3/5; Councilors Lessard, Mills and Clearwater in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Belanger and LaFountain opposed.

Amendment fails.

Motion by Councilor Grohman, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to keep the resident 65 and older beach permit at \$15.00.

Vote: 3/5; Councilors Grohman, Lessard and Mills in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Clearwater, Belanger and LaFountain opposed.

Amendment fails.

Vote on ordinance, as written: 6/2; Councilors Lessard and Mills opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Whiting, Grohman, Clearwater, Belanger and LaFountain in favor.

Motion carries.

Orders of the Day:

2022.11

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..FEBRUARY 15, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize awarding a contract for Aeration Basin Painting at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Apex Construction, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$36,775.00. Funding for this project will be from Bond proceeds.

NOTE: The Finance Committee will consider this item at their February 15, 2022 meeting and vote to send their recommendation to the Council.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Appointment:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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

**Kaily George
46 Sullivan Street, Apt. 201
Ward 2**

to the *Citizen Advisory Committee*, for a term to expire in December 2022.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Mills 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 had the following items:

- 1) FEMA Region 1 has accepted the City's application as complete for the funding of the River Wall Repairs.
- 2) An application has been submitted for the acquisition of a couple more electric vehicles; and if accepted, Jim proposes to sell two of the City's 2019 Ford Focuses. Once the City hears from the dealer that we can get the two electric vehicles, we will go through the rebate program offered through Efficiency Maine.
- 3) The Hill/Main/Water Street Project was rebid and while project costs came in about half a million dollars less than the last bidding, it is still about a million dollars more than what the project had originally been identified for. When this happens, the overage

becomes the responsibility of the municipality. Jim is working on getting MDOT and PACTs to secure more funding.

- 4) The State Attorney General recently signed off on the Opioid Lawsuit, of which proceeds will be used to help those impacted by opioids. It is expected that 30% of the proceeds will be divided amongst the communities who participated in the lawsuit.

Other Business:

Councilor Mills: referenced a Study mentioned by Richard Rhames during the *Public Addressing the Council* portion of this meeting, namely the 2004 Economic Impact Study. He would like to see this document circulated to the Councilors.

He saw in the newspaper that the Saco Wastewater Treatment Plant is being considered for re-location because it dumps wastewater into the Saco River. He wonders why the Biddeford Wastewater Treatment Plant is not being considered since we are in the same situation as Saco. City Manager James Bennett clarified that Saco has not been awarded any money; and that the article only chose to showcase Saco.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant is very pleased with the huge success of this year's WinterFest. More people attended this year's event than ever. He noted how important these types of events are to bring people together and to gain a true sense of community. He credited much of the success of the event to the volunteers from New Life Church; as well as the donations from Wal-Mart and many local food establishments. He looks forward to an even bigger and better WinterFest next year!

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

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move out of Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:58 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:58 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk