

COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 18, 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 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: William Emhiser, Scott Whiting, Martin Grohman, Bobby Mills, Amy Clearwater (joined virtually), Norman Belanger, Liam LaFountain and Marc Lessard

Doris Ortiz was excused.

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

Adjustment to the Agenda:

- Remove Presentation of FY23 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget

Proclamation: Support for Local Businesses During the Pandemic

Mayor Casavant read the proclamation in support for the local businesses that have been struggling through the pandemic. Specifically, businesses are facing the challenge of customers not wearing masks; and many of these are reluctant to mandate mask wearing in their places of business for fear of losing customers. Tonight's Proclamation is a plea to the public to do the responsible thing and wear masks in all places of business in support of their staff as well as other customers.

Update: Climate Change Task Force

Chrystina Gastelum member of the Climate Change Task Force and Chair of the Conservation Commission, gave a PowerPoint Presentation, outlining the goals of the Climate Change Task Force. She also provided an overview of the Climate Action Plan that has been developed. The Task Force's major objectives are to mitigate the risks we can; and adapt to the changes we cannot. Chrystina encouraged the Council to take a look at the Climate Change Roadmap that was recently provided to them. The Task Force intends to ask for \$74,000 in the upcoming budget to support the Climate Change initiatives that are outlined in the Climate Change Roadmap.

Presentation: Community Gardens

Biddeford Community Gardens Director, Holly Culloton gave a PowerPoint Presentation, starting with thanks to all the volunteers and financial contributors to the Biddeford Community Gardens Program. She talked about the successes of Biddeford's Community Gardens last year and the plans for this coming growing season. Some of those plans include:

- Possibly building a community greenhouse
- Support the Mayor's Monarch Pledge
- 'Biddeford Gardens' Series with McArthur Library
- Pierson's Lane Children's Garden summer programming
- Weekly garden work parties in each of the four gardens
- Potlucks using the food grown in the gardens

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

There were no public comments.

Consideration of Minutes: January 4, 2022

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2022.05

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANAURY 18, 2022

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby identify \$3,650,862 as lost revenue in accordance with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and authorizes the use of ARPA Grant Funds in amount of \$3,650,862 to be deposited into the General Fund, unencumbered, for replacement of lost revenue as allowed under ARPA rules.

NOTE: This item will be considered by the Finance Committee at their January 18, 2022 meeting and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Council.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2022.06 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 18, 2022**
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager to facilitate payoff of the Waste Water Treatment Plant interfund loan, in the amount of approximately \$1,694,572 with the actual amount verified in accordance with the FY21 financial audit and YTD balance as of the date of payoff. The payoff shall be from the unencumbered ARPA lost revenue funds.

NOTE: This item will be considered by the Finance Committee at their January 18, 2022 meeting and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Council.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 18, 2022
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint the following to the *Ad Hoc Housing Committee*:

Councilor Doris Ortiz, Chair
Councilor Martin Grohman
Daniel Boucher
Shirley Bowen
Ciel Caldwell
Dominic Deschambault
Seth Harkness
Jessica Johnson

Motion by Councilor Emhiser, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointments.
Vote: Unanimous.

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 18, 2022
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

Vito Mininni
8 Harvard Street
Ward 7

to the *Capital Projects Committee*, for a term to expire in December 2023.

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):
There were no public comments.

City Manager Report: City Manager James Bennett had no report at this time.

Other Business:

Councilor Whiting: appreciates that the Mayor put forth the Proclamation in *Support for Local Businesses During the Pandemic*; however, he is not convinced that a Proclamation goes far enough to get people to start wearing masks when going into local businesses.

Councilor Whiting is encouraged that the ARP Funds could be used to help local businesses who have seen a loss in revenue due to the pandemic.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor Belanger noted that at a Special Council Meeting held on January 17th, the Council approved making Juneteenth an officially City-observed holiday; and also approved the formation of a Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant reminded folks that WinterFest is coming up on February 4th and 5th with lots of fun and free activities planned over those two days. Wal-Mart has donated 30 bicycles which will be raffled off; and many local businesses have donated pizzas for the event. He explained that snow for the event is brought in from the various parking lots in the City, including at Biddeford Crossing and clean snow (no salt or sand) from the Biddeford Airport.

Mayor Casavant went on to urge folks to check out the Westbrook Skating Rink Facebook page where Councilor Marty Grohman can be seen wading through Westbrook Skating Rink in his waders getting equipment. Councilor Grohman is an avid volunteer for the skating rink.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:10 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk