

City of Biddeford
City Council
January 16, 2024 6:00 pm

Status:

1. Roll Call - all present

Council President LaFountain

Councilor Lessard

Councilor Ortiz

Councilor Emhiser

Councilor Whiting

Councilor Beaupre

Councilor Mills

Councilor Schlaver

Councilor Belanger

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda - none

Proclamation

Proclamation Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

[20240116 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. -PROCLAMATION.pdf](#)

Mayor read the proclamation

4. Recognition:

4.a. Recognition in Memory of Roger Cantara

5. Appointments:

5.a. 2024.08 Confirmation of City Manager's Nomination for Director of Community and Economic Development Director

[20240116 George Gervais - Appointment](#)

[20240116 Gervais Resume](#)

[20240116 Gervais Employment Agreement.2024](#)

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Mills

Vote: Unanimous

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

2 citizens spoke

7. Consideration of Minutes:

7.a. Approval of Minutes 1-4-24

[City Council Minutes 1-4-24](#)

Motion Councilor Mills
Second Councilor Schlaver
Vote Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

8. Second Reading:

- 8.a. 2024.02 Approval/Amend Code of Ordinances Part II: Code of Ordinances, Article IV - Boards, Committees, Commissions
[010424 DEI Committee Ordinance Memo](#)
[010424 DEI Committee Ordinance Order 2nd](#)
[011722 Language Approved for Creation of Diversity Inclusion Equity Committee](#)

Motion: Councilor Schlaver
Second: Councilor Whiting

5 members of the public spoke in favor of the DEI Committee

Councilor Ortiz spoke in favor of the Ordinance. Several Councilor members voiced support for the committee. Councilor Belanger stated that the committee work is very important. Councilor LaFountain encouraged people to apply for the committee openings.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

9. Orders of the Day:

- 9.a. Approval/Re-zone portions of the City's R-2 and R-1 A lots to MSRD -2
[Policy Brief Rezoning to MSRD2 1-16-24](#)
[City Council Order Rezoning from R1 and R1A to MSRD2 1-16-24](#)
[Zoning Map Amendment R2 to MSRD2 12-06-23 PB MEMO](#)
[Bennett Policy Memo to CC 6-20-23 IZ incentive](#)
[Policy Brief Rezoning to MSRD2 9-20-23](#)
[PPH First Reading](#)
[Rezoning Map Proposal 9-20-2023](#)

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

- 9.b. Approval/Amend Ordinances, Part II: Code of Ordinances - Subdivisions Article 1, Section 66-21 Soil Evaluations
[City Council Order 2024.10 Subdivisions Septic Inspections 1-16-2024](#)
[Policy Brief Septic Inspections 1-16-24](#)
[Ordinance Amendment SEPTIC and SLUDGE 1-16-23](#)
[Brent Lawson email regarding septic inspections](#)
[Ordinance Amendment SEPTIC INSPECTIONS 1-16-24](#)

[Septic and Sludge Ordinance Amendment 12-06-23 PB MEMO](#)
[Septic and Sludge Ordinance Amendment 12-06-23 PB MEMO](#)

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

Motion of Amendment by Councilor Whiting to amend section 66-21 paragraph A change “his” to “their” to comply with the gender-neutral policy.
Second: Councilor Embiser
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion passed.

- 9.c. Approval/Amend Ordinance Part III: Code of Ordinances, Article VI - Performance Standards Section 58 Subsurface wastewater disposal and sludge spreading.
[City Council Order 2024.11Subsurface wastewater disposal and sludge spreading 1-16-2024](#)
[Maine House of Representatives email regarding sludge 12-8-23](#)
[Ordinance Amendment SEPTIC and SLUDGE 12-20-23](#)
[Ordinance Amendment Subsurface Wastewater and sludge spreading 1-16-24](#)
[Policy Brief Subsurface Wastewater disposal and sludge spreading 1-16-24](#)
[Septic and Sludge Ordinance Amendment 12-06-23 PB MEMO](#)
[Septic and Sludge Ordinance Amendment 12-20-23 PB MEMO](#)

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

1 person from the public spoke concerning the definition of the word “sludge”.

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

A citizen expressed concerns with the speed of traffic on Granite Street.

4 citizens expressed concerns about the unhoused, the lack of resources, and asked to move them away from the railroad tracks.

11. City Manager Report

City Manager Jim Bennett gave an update on the recent storms and the impact on the community. The City is blessed with a talented workforce. The preplanning, teamwork and efforts of those in Dispatch, Public Works, Police, Fire/EMS and Code Enforcement Director Roby Fecteau saved the City from more damage. He does not have an exact number yet but it could be between 1.5 to 2.5 million dollars of public infrastructure damage. They expect this to qualify for Federal Disaster funding, the FEMA rules have specific procedures to qualify for the funds. Some areas will take time to repair to make sure they follow the correct procedures for the funding.

CEO Fecteau is in contact with DEP regarding dunes and seawall repairs. He will be scheduling neighborhood informational sessions and information will be posted on our website and the Biddeford Beat.

Councilor Emhiser, Ward 1, thanked the City staff for the unbelievable efforts to the community before, during and after the storms.

12. Other Business

None

13. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President did not address the Council at this time.

14. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman had several updates. He thanked everyone for their work on the storms. There is interest from several major construction companies to bid on the school construction. School State subsidy information will be coming out at the end of the month and Superintendent Ray will be here on March 19th.

Congratulations to Danielle Emerson, 2 time Maine Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year. The mayor will be visiting local radio station 93.1 tomorrow to have a conversation with the hosts and answer questions. They will be invited to Winterfest.

15. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive session by Councilor Belanger at 7:55 PM

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

15.a. Executive Session 405 6 (c) Economic Development matters

15.b. Executive Session 405 6 (c) Real Estate matters

15.c. Executive Session 405 6 (d) Labor Negotiations

16. Adjourn