

**COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 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., Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

Amy Clearwater was excused.

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

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Add: Game of Chance Application – York County Veterans Alliance
- Add: Executive Session – 1MRSA 405(6)(E)...Consultation with City Attorney

Game of Chance Application: **York County Veterans Alliance.**

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to recommend the issuance of the Game of Chance License to York County Veterans Alliance.

Vote: Unanimous.

Presentation: Update from Biddeford Youth Advisory Council

Biddeford Youth Advisory Council President, Lily Melton updated the Council on the projects that BYAC has been working on over the past few months. In October, they organized and conducted a downtown cleanup, and in doing so found many discarded cigarettes on the sidewalks. The BYAC is recommending more cigarette disposal units be installed all around the downtown.

In December, the group decided to raise funds to help support those who are homeless. BYAC held a bake sale during the Downtown Holiday Celebration with all the proceeds given to Seeds of Hope.

The BYAC is looking for project ideas and asked the Council to pass along any suggestions that may aid the Council and community.

Consideration of Minutes: **December 17, 2020**

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

Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2020.1 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 7, 2020**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby resolve to approve the reallocation of \$309,000 in the 2018 Year 1 Action Plan to the Sidewalk Improvement Program in the amount of \$139,500; the Multi-Family Housing Program in the amount of \$139,500; and a Contingency Fund in the amount of \$30,000.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2020.2 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 7, 2020**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the purchase of a replacement pump from Motion Industries of Portland, Maine in the amount of **\$56,041.53**. Funds for this project will come out of *Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Improvements Account 22005-60501-Operating Supply/Equipment*.

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

Vote: Unanimous.

2020.3 **IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 7, 2020**

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby accept the Emergency Operations Plan with Disaster Event Suggested Operational Guidelines for the City of Biddeford.

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

Committee-of-the-Whole: Discussion of FY21 Proposed Budget Calendar

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Committee-of-the-Whole.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:12 p.m.

Councilor St. Cyr would like to see a more condensed manpower and benefits budget, rather than have this information dispersed throughout each department budget.

Councilor Quattrone would like to see less redundancy than last year's budget so that the same issues are not being talked about at each budget meeting. Also, would like to find ways to communicate better about when the first reading of the budget is (since there are no comments heard on the second reading) so to encourage more public participation.

Councilor Lessard would like to see Council agreement that those budgets that come in relatively flat would not necessarily need to be reviewed or discussed by the Budget Committee. He would rather take the time to hear from those Departments who have substantial changes.

Councilor Belanger wants to ensure a well-vetted process that will allow for public input early and often at the Budget Committee level. This would make for a more efficient process once the budget is at the Council level, with the hope that most of the budget work has been done at the Budget Committee level.

Councilor McCurry would like take the input from those who spoke during this Committee-of-the-Whole, meet with Mayor Casavant and the City Manager and come up with a budget schedule amenable to the Council.

Councilor Ready agrees with most of what has been said. He does think it is important that each Department Head make a presentation of their budgets – to give them an opportunity to explain what they are asking for in their budget, especially if the City Manager is making a different recommendation.

Councilor Ortiz agrees that public input and comments are important, as well as the Department Heads input, so that the Council can hear what everybody needs.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, second by Councilor Lessard to move out of Committee-of-the-Whole.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:22 p.m.

2020.4

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...JANUARY 7, 2020

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby approved the proposed FY21 Budget Calendar of scheduled budget-related meetings and public hearings.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to table this order until the Mayor, Council President and City Manager have met and come up with a proposed budget calendar.

Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
One citizen addressed his concerns to the Council

City Manager Report:

City Manager, Jim Bennett shared that last week with the significant snow event we had, the Public Works Crew had a laborious and long couple of days of snow clearing. Because of an overworked Crew, Public Works Director, Jeff Demers and Asst. Public Works Director, Carl Marcotte both ended up riding on the back of a dump truck one morning last week. This is notable because it shows the true dedication of City Staff.

Other Business:

Councilor Lessard: suggested that the Council connect with the Biddeford Youth Advisory Council and come up with some ideas for events that would bring the youth into the downtown.

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry commended Public Works Director, Jeff Demers and his Crew for all their work and efficiency during last week's snow event. Councilor McCurry has heard positive feedback from many citizens with the snow removal process, and specifically, how DPW was able to clear the snow and keep the streets wide.

At the next Council Meeting, Councilor McCurry would like the Council to consider the plans for this year's LaKermesse and give that organization some direction so that they may move forward with their planning.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant suggested to Councilor Lessard that he reach out to Delilah Poupore of the Heart of Biddeford in regards to bringing youth into the downtown. Delilah organizes events for the UNE students and could certainly be a great resource for possibly organizing more events that would attract younger folks to the downtown.

A WinterFest planning meeting was held earlier today and the beginning stages of the event are underway. Mayor Casavant encouraged folks to volunteer and get involved in this great community event.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(E)...Consultation with City Attorney, re: Legal Matter
Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move into Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 6:35 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move out of Executive Session.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to adjourn.
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:00 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk