

City of Biddeford
City Council
January 04, 2024 6:00 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

Status:

1. Roll Call

Council President LaFountain - present via zoom

Councilor Lessard - present

Councilor Ortiz - excused

Councilor Emhiser - present

Councilor Whiting - present

Councilor Beaupre -excused

Councilor Mills - present

Councilor Schlaver - present

Councilor Belanger - present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

4. Appointments:

- 4.a. 2024.01) Approval/Appointment Erin Ware to Historic Preservation Commission
[20240102 Erin Ware Historic Preservation Commission-ORDER.docx](#)
[20240102 Erin Ware Historic Preservation Commission Application.pdf](#)

Motion: Councilor Mills

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5. Presentation:

- 5.a. Presentation by Recreation Department of the Playground Report
[Council 2024 Playground Presentation](#)
[City of Biddeford Playground Report 2024](#)

Recreation Director Catherine Ellis presented the Council with an assessment of current the City playgrounds – their accessibility, condition, equipment and options for the future.

6. Public Addressing the Council...(3 minute limit per speaker for up to a total of 15 minutes) none

7. Consideration of Minutes:

- 7.a. Approval of Minutes 12-19-2023
[Council 12-19-23 minutes](#)

Motion: Councilor Mills
Second: Councilor Lessard
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Minutes accepted.

- 7.b. Approval of Minutes 12-21-23
[Council Minutes 12-21-23](#)

Motion: Councilor Whiting
Second: Councilor Lessard
Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Minutes accepted

8. Second Reading:

- 8.a. 2023.161) Approval/Adoption/Code of Ordinance - Appendix A - Rules of the Council
[2023.161\) Adoption of Rules of the Council Order - ORDER](#)
[20231219 Rules of City Council Redlined - REFERENCE](#)

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

9. Orders of the Day:

- 9.a. 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](#)
[011722 Language Approved for Creation of Diversity Inclusion Equity Committee](#)

Motion: Councilor Schlaver
Second: Councilor Whiting

Councilor Lessard – Motion to Amend to include the terms “beliefs and border security” in Sec 2-328 (b)
Second: Councilor Belanger
Councilor Lessard explained that it is to add those groups.
Councilors Belanger and LaFountain commented that the other descriptions are based on identity.
Vote on the Amendment: 6 nays – Councilors LaFountain, Emhiser, Whiting, Mills, Schlaver and Belanger.
1 yea – Councilor Lessard
Amendment failed.

Councilor Belanger – Motion to Amend Sec 2-328 (a) to add the words “City Manager” before the final word “designee”.

Second: Councilor Emhiser
Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor.
Amendment passed.

Councilor Lessard asked for clarification on the definitions in (b).
City Staff explained the definitions and gave examples.
Councilor Mills expressed concern with an Ad Hoc committee becoming permanent.

Councilor Mills- Motion to Table and send to Policy.
Second: Councilor Lessard
Vote: 5 nays – Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, Schlaver, Whiting and LaFountain.
2 yeas – Councilors Lessard and Mills.
Motion failed.

Councilor Schlaver – Motion to Amend to remove “political affiliation” from Sec 2-238 (b).
Second: Councilor Belanger
Councilor Belanger explained that the descriptions listed are typical for EEO laws.
Councilor Emhiser asked if the list is typical.
City DEI Coordinator Shelly Gibson explained that this was carried over from the previous version.
Vote on the amendment - 4 nays – Councilors Lessard, Emhiser, Whiting, and Mills
3 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Schlaver and LaFountain.
Amendment failed.

Councilor Belanger commented that it should have gone to Policy first to work out some of the language. However, it spells out the sequence of appointments and they need to be made soon.

Councilor Lessard – Motion to Amend Sec 2-334, change the word “call” to “notify”
Second – Councilor Mills
Vote – Unanimous in Favor.
Amendment passed.

Councilor Lessard – Motion to Amend Sec. 2-336, strike the entire section.
Second: Councilor Mills
Councilors discussed that subcommittees have powers. The committee can create working teams to focus on issues.
Vote – Unanimous in favor.
Amendment passed.

Vote on Order as Amended: 5 yeas – Councilors Belanger, Whiting, Emhiser, LaFountain and Schlaver.
2 nays – Councilors Lessard and Mills.
Motion passed.

9.b. 2024.03) - Approval/Non-Union Bereavement Leave Policy

[20240104 Amendments to Nonunion Bereavement Leave Policy - BRIEF](#)
[20240104 Approval -Amendment to Non-Union Bereavement Leave Policy - Updated ORDER.](#)
[20240104 Community Comparison - Nonunion Bereavement Leave Policy - REFERENCE](#)

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

- 9.c. 2024.04 Approval/Non-Union Parental Leave Policy
[20240104 Amendment to Nonunion Parental Leave Policy - BRIEF](#)
[20240104 Amendments to Nonunion Parental Leave Policy - Updated ORDER](#)
[20240104 Community Comparison - Nonunion Parental Leave Policy - REFERENCE](#)
[20240104 Parental Leave - City of Biddeford FMLA Statistics \(for birth\) - REFERENCE](#)

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

- 9.d. 2024.05 Approval/Non-Union Health Insurance/Premium Share
[20240104 Amendment Nonunion Health Benefit Employee Contribution - BRIEF](#)
[20240104 Amendment Nonunion Health Benefit Employee Contribution - ORDER](#)

Motion: Councilor Mills
Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Emhiser asked if the amount was annual.
Councilor LaFountain asked if the percentages were consistent.
Human Resources Director Diana DePaolo explained that it was annual and they are consistent.
Councilor Lessard was concerned that it would signal to the other parties in future negotiations.
Councilor Emhiser commented that it would be ok to do that.

Vote: 5 yeas – Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Whiting, Schlaver and LaFountain.
2 nays – Councilors Lessard and Mills.
Motion passed.

- 9.e. 2024.06) Approval/Award Ambulance Purchase to P.L. Custom - Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles
[20240104 Council - Approval Ambulance Purchase - BRIEF](#)
[20240104 Approval Ambulance Purchase - ORDER](#)
[20220103 Sourcewell RFP 110921 PL Custom Ambulance Contract - REFERENCE](#)
[20231227 Ambulance Purchase Sales Agreement - REFERENCE](#)
[20231227 PL Custom Sugarloaf Ambulance Component Report- REFERENCE](#)

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilors asked questions about delivery dates.

Fire Chief Best explained that orders need to be placed years and months in advance to take delivery.

Councilor Lessard – Motion to Amend the Detailed Review to state “cost not to exceed \$451,000.”

Second: Councilor Mills.

Vote on the amendment – Unanimous in favor.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the Order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

- 9.f. 2024.07) Approval/Award Fire Engine Pumper Purchase to Sutphen Corp
[20240104 Council - Approval Fire Engine Pumper Purchase - BRIEF](#)
[20240104 Approval Fire Engine Pumper Purchase - ORDER](#)
[20220208 Sourcewell RFP 113021 Sutphen Corp Contract - REFERENCE](#)
[20231227 Sutphen Engine Pumper Component Report - REFERENCE](#)
[20231227 Sutphen Engine Pumper Proposal - REFERENCE](#)

Motion: Councilor Mills

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Lessard – Motion to Amend the Detailed Review to state “Cost not to exceed \$934,000”.

Second: Councilor Emhiser

Vote on the amendment – Unanimous in favor.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the Order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Public Addressing the Council..(5 minute limit per speaker) - none

11. City Manager Report - The City Manager did not give a report.

12. Other Business

Councilor Emhiser shared that the demolition began on the Marie Joseph building today. It has stood for 100 years. Thanks to the support of the community it will become a spectacular space for the community in the future.

Councilor Lessard really appreciates the playground presentation and would like to see it move forward with a bond.

Councilor Belanger reminded everyone where to find snow parking ban information.

13. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain did not address the Council.

14. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman thanked everyone for the discussion on the playgrounds. He reminded the Council about the Workshop on 1-9-24 at 5:30.

He congratulated the Biddeford Middle School Math Team and all of the athletic teams.

He commented on the Marie Joseph Center – it is bittersweet but will provide great access to nature at no cost to the City.

15. Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Mills at 7:43 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.