

City of Biddeford

City Council

July 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call

Council President LaFountain - present

Councilor Lessard - present

Councilor Ortiz - excused

Councilor Emhiser - present

Councilor Whiting - present

Councilor Beaupre - present

Councilor Gross - present

Councilor Belanger - present

Councilor Doughty - present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Item 20, executive session will be move to item 11 executive session and a third executive session will be added for Legal Matters.

4. Public Hearing

4.a Public Hearing Liquor License Into the Rift LLC

Public Hearing opened at 6:04 pm

The owners spoke about the business.

Public Hearing closed at 6:05 pm.

5. Liquor License Consideration

5.a Liquor License: Into the Rift LLC

Councilor Beaupre - motion to grant the Liquor License

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed

6. Proclamation

6.a National Parks and Recreation Month 2025

Mayor Grohman read the proclamation

7. Presentation

7.a Recreation Commission

Kathryn Lagasse, Chair of the Recreation Commission gave an update on the commission's progress.

7.b Construction Update- Jeff Demers, Director of Public Works

Public Works Director Jeff Demers reviewed the progress on city construction projects.

8. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen praised the work for recreation in the city.

One citizen spoke about the recent federal budget cuts.

One citizen spoke about ADU initiatives

One citizen would like to have the Traffic Committee look at pedestrian issues by the Levee Building.

9. Consideration of Minutes

9.a Council Minutes 6-17-25

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day

10.a 2025.88 Approval/ Start Date for Lister Position- Assessing Department

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.b 2025.89 Approval Recreation Financial Aid Funding

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.c 2025.93 Approval/ Overnight Parking Rate

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilors had questions on the report.

Councilor LaFountain – motion to Table until more information is available on the current number of users parking at those hours.

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion Tabled.

11. Executive Session

11.a Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) c Real Estate Matters

20.a Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) d Labor Negotiations

Additional: Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) e Legal Matters

Motion to enter Executive Sessions: Councilor Belanger at 6:46 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Belanger- motion to exit Executive Sessions at 7:48 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12. Reconsideration of Item

12.a Reconsideration of item 2025.79 Approval Forest Green Development Agreement and TIF for Sewer Contribution

Motion to Reconsider order 2025.79 by Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion to reconsider passed.

Councilor LaFountain - motion to amend ARTICLE I – COMMITMENTS to add a new Section

3: *"3. Contingency and Termination*

"For the avoidance of doubt, if FG (Forest Green) does not receive affordable housing funding from the Maine State Housing Authority in either 2025 or 2026, this Agreement shall automatically terminate on December 31, 2026, unless extended by mutual agreement of both parties and by a majority vote of the Biddeford City Council."

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

13. Committee of the Whole

13.a Local Bond and Referendum Questions for the November Ballot

Motion to enter by Councilor Belanger at 7:50 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Councilors discussed potential items and the timeline for bonds on the November ballot. Manager Phinney will prepare costs per item for the discussion at the next meeting.

Motion to exit by Councilor Emhiser at 8:17 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

14. Public Addressing the Council

None

15. City Manager Report

Acting City Manager Brian Phinney gave an update on a grant award for the January 2024 storm damage. He also spoke about the IRS liability issue and will provide additional updates in the future.

16. Committee Updates by Council

Councilor Belanger gave an update on the Policy Committee. They are reviewing all of the committees to standardize and streamline them. They will bring it forward to the full council when it is ready.

17. Other Business

Councilor Beaupre gave constituent feedback about the porta-potties at Fortune's Rocks, they need to be emptied more often.

Councilor Whiting read a statement with comments about the last meeting.

18. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain thanked the communications team for the improvements to the zoom process and the quality of the meeting recordings. He attended the Adult Education graduation and complimented the work of that team. He had questions about the city process for businesses going door to door.

19. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman thanked Councilor Whiting for the feedback.

He asked the Council if they wanted to keep the Workshop next week or move the remaining items to the 7-15-25 Council meeting. The consensus was to move the items.

Mayor Grohman reminded everyone that the new Biddeford Farmer's Market is starting this Wednesday at 4 pm at Mechanics Park.

20. Executive Session

20.a Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) d Labor Negotiations - moved to item 11

21. Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Belanger at 8:36 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned