

City of Biddeford
City Council
July 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call

Council President LaFountain - present
Councilor Lessard - present
Councilor Ortiz - present
Councilor Emhiser - present
Councilor Whiting - present
Councilor Beaupre - present
Councilor Gross - present
Councilor Belanger – present via zoom
Councilor Doughty - present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

none

4. Proclamation

4.a July 18, 2025, as Park and Recreation Professionals Day-Proclamation

4.b National Night Out- Proclamation

Mayor Grohman read the proclamations

5. Recognition

5.a Fire Department Promotions:

Ken Thorpe, Assistant Chief

Steven Quinn, Lieutenant/Paramedic.

6. Presentation

6.a Citgo Sign -Public Art

Economic Development Coordinator, Brad Favreau presented the design and timeline for the sign.

6.b Yodel Software presented by HOB, the Chamber and the School Department.

Abby Leibowitz from the Heart of Biddeford shared information about this resource. The link is: events.yodel.today/Biddeford

7. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen spoke about congestion downtown.

8. Consideration of Minutes

8.a Council minutes 7-1-25

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Motion passed.

9. Orders of the Day

9.a Remove from Table 2025.83 Approval of Main St Pump Station Upgrades

Councilor Beaupre motion to remove from Table

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote to remove from Table: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers gave an update on the project costs.

Councilor Emhiser spoke of the importance of the project, it needs to start this fall.

Vote on the order: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom

9.b 2025.94 Approval/ Public Works Supervisors/ Teamsters Local 340 - CBA

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9.c 2025.91 Approval Maine EMS Sustainability Program Grant

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Fire Chief Larry Best spoke about the grant and qualifying purchases.

Councilor LaFountain thanked him for the efforts to get the grant funding.

Councilor LaFountain motion to add at the end of the order:

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, “that the Fire Chief shall provide to the Finance Committee, on a quarterly basis, the grant performance progress reports and supporting documentation required to be submitted to the State of Maine Department of Public Safety pursuant to the grant agreement.”

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended.

Vote: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Motion passed.

9.d 2025.92 Approval Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation Marine Rescue Boat Grant

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Motion passed.

9.e 2025.98 Approval Amend Council Rules

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor; Councilor Belanger yea via zoom.

Motion passed.

*9.f Approval / Rescind Order 2025.69 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a
Development Agreement Between the City of Biddeford and Westbrook
Development Corporation*

Motion: Councilor Lessard

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Councilor Lessard gave a presentation.

Councilor Belanger spoke against the motion; it sets a dangerous precedent.

Vote: 1 yea – Councilor Lessard

8 nays – Councilors Ortiz, Gross, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser, LaFountain; and
Councilor Belanger nay via zoom.

Motion failed.

10. Committee of the Whole

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

Councilor Beaupre- motion to enter Committee of the Whole at 7:55 pm

Second: Councilor Emhiser

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion passed.

Acting City Manager Brian Phinney provided details on possible bond questions, the purpose of each and the funding levels.

Councilors discussed the projects, funding levels and timing of the potential bonds.

Councilor Lessard – motion to suspend the rules to allow citizens to comment.

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Lessard – motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm

Second: Councilor Ortiz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Two citizens asked questions about the bond rates and the timing of the dispersals.

One citizen commented about the total cost of the work to be done and the importance of letting the citizens know.

One citizen commented that it might be time to create more in-house positions to handle this work.

10.b Review Status of Telecommunications Stack at 3 Lincoln Street (former MERC Stack)

Manager Phinney reviewed the options for the stack, the timeline and asked the Council to give guidance on the direction they would like to go with this.

Councilor Lessard – motion to exit Committee of the Whole at 9:32 pm

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11. Public Addressing the Council

None

12. City Manager Report

Manager Phinney gave an update on the Eastern Fire Station – we are waiting for a report from the State. He asked the Councilors to give him their information for swapping out laptops. The Riverwalk project is on schedule.

13. Committee Updates by Council

None

14. Other Business

None

15. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain asked that a budget item for the food pantry be added to the next agenda. Councilor Emhiser seconded the request.

16. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman mentioned several upcoming events:

The Biddeford Farmer's Market is on Wednesday at Mechanics Park

The Chamber Fest is happening on Thursday.

The next production at City Theater is Cinderella and starts on Friday.

17. Adjourn

Motion: Councilor LaFountain at 9:37 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.