

City of Biddeford
City Council
August 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call - all present

Council President LaFountain
Councilor Lessard
Councilor Ortiz
Councilor Emhiser
Councilor Whiting
Councilor Beaupre
Councilor Gross
Councilor Belanger
Councilor Doughty

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

A third executive session has been added.

A third presentation has been added.

Mayor Grohman welcomed the new City Manager, Truc Dever and she was sworn in.

4. Public Hearing

4.a K-Thai Kitchen Liquor License

Open at 6:06 pm

Comments: none

Close at 6:07 pm

5. Liquor License Consideration

5.a K-Thai Kitchen Liquor License Application

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

6. Presentation

6.a Saco-Biddeford Multi-modal Bridge

Tracey Desjardins and Liz Brownell presented options and the timeline on the project.

6.b Legislative Session Wrap Up

State House Representatives Marc Malon and Ryan Fecteau shared information on the recent Legislative Session.

6.c. J. Richard Martin Community Center Park Renovation Project

Public Works Director Jeff Demers and Recreation Director Lisa Thompson reviewed progress on the new playground.

7. Appointments

7.a 2025.110 Approval / Mayoral Appointment to Committee-Citizen

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

8. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen spoke about the success of River Jam and thanked the city staff who helped.

One citizen spoke about the UNE pier.

One citizen spoke about the Save our Shores initiatives.

One citizen spoke about the unhoused.

One citizen spoke about the trees taken down at the playground.

One citizen spoke about safe biking.

9. Consideration of Minutes

9.a Council Minutes 8-5-25

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day

10.a 2025.112 Approval / Amend Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42 - Motor Vehicles and

Traffic, Article IV - Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 42-92 Limited Parking - Main

Street

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Councilor Beaupre – motion to amend to have two spaces between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm and two spaces between the hours of 8:00 am and 10:00 pm.

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.b 2025.108 Amend/Part II: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42 Motor Vehicles and Traffic,

Article IV Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 42-90(a) - No Parking Hill Street from

Birch/Granite Streets to West Street.

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Public comment: Eight citizens spoke in favor of the proposal. One citizen would prefer more sidewalks.

Councilors mentioned several emails from constituents against the proposal.

Councilors discussed the traffic plans and parking issues in that area and asked Director Demers questions about the timing and locations.

Councilor Belanger said that it needed more time and public input.

Councilor Beaupre reminded everyone that it will have a second reading at the next meeting.

Vote: 6 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

3 nays – Councilors Lessard, Belanger and Gross.

Motion passed.

10.c 2025.109 Approval Award Finance Payroll Software RFP to Paylocity

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Belanger absent for the vote.

Motion passed.

10.d 2025.111 Direct City Manager to Evaluate Conservation Commission

Recommendation to Place Tax-Acquired Property Map-1, Lot-19 in Conservation

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Whiting

Public comment: five members of the conservation commission spoke in favor of this.

Councilor Emhiser explained that the City Manager would need time to review this proposal with the conservation groups, have the legal research done and come back with a formal proposal for Council.

Councilor LaFountain – motion to amend the report back date to the first regular Council meeting in November 2025.

Second: Councilor Emhiser

Vote on the amendment: 7 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Belanger, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

2 nays – Councilors Lessard and Gross.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

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

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: 8 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Belanger, Gross, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

1 nay – Councilor Ortiz.

Motion passed.

10.e 2025.97 Approval Special Event Biddeford Oktoberfest

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11. Committee of the Whole

11.a Update - Main Street Pump Station Project Funding

Motion to enter by Councilor Lessard at 9:05 pm

Second: Councilor Belanger

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers gave an overview of the project.

COO Brian Phinney discussed the procurement procedures.

Councilors discussed these two items and asked questions.

Motion to exit by Councilor Belanger at 9:33 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12. Public Addressing the Council

none

13. City Manager Report

City Manager Truc Dever spoke about her positive experience the first week and thanked everyone for the warm welcome. She thanked Interim City Manager Brian Phinney for his kindness and support. She will work on the item discussed at the last Council meeting regarding City Hall hours. The Economic Development Director position has been posted to reach a wide audience.

14. Committee Updates by Council

Councilor Beaupre said that the Traffic Committee meeting on Tuesday 8/26/25 is cancelled, they will meet again in September.

15. Other Business

None.

16. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain did not address the council at this time.

17. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman reminded everyone of the Special Council meeting next Tuesday 8/26/25 at 5:30pm.

He commented on the success of River Jam.

He reminded everyone that school is opening soon.

He is planning to bring back Project Canopy and will have more details soon.

18. Executive Sessions

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

18.b Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) e Legal Matters

18.c. Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) a Personnel Matters

Motion to enter by Councilor Belanger at 9:42 pm

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to exit by Councilor Belanger at 10:42 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

19. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Belanger at 10:42 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.