

City of Biddeford

City Council

August 26, 2025 at 5:30 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 - excused

Councilor Belanger - present

Councilor Doughty - excused

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Item 6.a. executive session was added.

4. Public Hearing

4.a Bond Question 1 - Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

Public Hearing opened at 5:33 pm

Public comments:

Brad Cote, Ward 7, asked a question about the impact on the credit rating.

Sam Pecor, Ward 7, commented about the description of pay as you go.

Public hearing closed at 5:36 pm

4.b Bond Question 2 - Recreation Facilities

Public Hearing opened at 5:36 pm

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing closed at 5:36 pm

4.c Charter Revision Referendum Question

Public hearing opened at 5:36 pm

Public comments:

Brad Cote, Ward 7, asked the Council why they wanted to open it up for revision.

Public hearing closed at 5:38 pm.

5. Second Reading

5.a 2025.101 Approval Bond Question 1 - Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Bond

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor LaFountain asked for details about the credit rating.

COO Brian Phinney explained that as previously reported the rating has been withdrawn for lack of information and will be reset once the FY24 and FY25 audits are completed.

Councilor Lessard reminded everyone that this work is mandated by the state.

Councilor Emhiser explained that the bond would be used in stages and would get the best rate at that time.

Councilor Belanger said the rating by Moody's was AA. This is the type of project that fits a bond to spread the payments out over time versus a few years.

Councilor LaFountain asked the City Manager to make sure there is a good communication plan in place.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5.b 2025.102 Approval Bond Question 2 - Recreation Facility Improvements

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard.

Councilor Belanger thinks the project is worthy but does not want to risk the voters choosing the lowest option.

Councilor Emhiser wants to make sure there is a solid communication plan. He will not support it at the six million dollar level.

Councilor LaFountain would like the voters to decide.

Councilor Lessard supports it, the citizens want recreation. There needs to be a good communication plan.

Vote: 5 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Ortiz, Beaupre, Whiting and LaFountain.

2 nays – Councilors Belanger and Emhiser.

Motion passed.

The Mayor reminded everyone that school starts this week.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers said the staff would be coming back to Council to approve funding for the bond communications plan.

6. Executive Session

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

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

Councilor Belanger - motion to enter executive session at 5:56 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to exit the executive session by Councilor Lessard at 7:12 pm

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Lessard at 7:12 pm

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____

Robin Patterson, City Clerk