

City of Biddeford

City Council

September 17, 2024 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 - excused

Councilor Doughty - present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Addition of a second executive session MRS 405 (6) a Personnel Matters

4. Proclamation

4.a Biddeford Neighborhood Cleanup

Mayor Grohman read the proclamation

5. Appointments

5.a 2024.153 Approval Mayoral Appointments to Citizens Committees

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

6. Public Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman asked the Council if they were willing to allow members of the skate community to keep some of the items from the demolition. Council agreed.

2 Citizens spoke about the importance of keeping the Town Landing and the history of it.

2 Citizens spoke about the Skate Park, communication regarding the demolition and questions about being allowed to keep items from it. City Manager Jim Bennett asked them to contact his office for a meeting to discuss the process.

7. Consideration of Minutes

7.a Council Minutes 9-3-24

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

8. Second Reading

8.a 2024.145 Approval Orchard Street Parking

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Ortiz – would like data about speeding in the area, she does not support taking away parking as written, would support half.

Councilor Lessard – motion to amend to “no parking from May Street to Elm Street only half the distance”

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Councilor Doughty – most of that end is single family housing, will not support the amendment.

Vote: 4 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Lessard, Beaupre and Whiting

4 nays – Councilors Gross, Doughty, Emhiser and LaFountain

Mayor Grohman – yea vote.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended: 7 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Ortiz, Beaupre, Whiting, Doughty, Emhiser, and LaFountain

1 nay- Councilor Gross.

Motion passed.

8.b 2024.147 Approval Opioid Use Settlement Fund Tracking and Reporting Ordinance

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9. Orders of the Day

9.a 2024.158 Approval/Maine Municipal Association Voting Delegates

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Approval of Marc Lessard as MMA Voting Delegate

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9.b. Reconsideration of Tidewater Estates Lot 5 Consent Agreement

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Gross

Councilor Lessard asked a question to the City Solicitor regarding the motion to reconsider. City Solicitor Harry Center replied that the correct procedure is to be reconsidered.

Vote to Reconsider: 6 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Gross, Doughty, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

2 nays – Councilors Lessard and Beaupre.

The developer read a letter to the Council.

The family involved in the transaction shared their story with the Council.

Code Enforcement Officer Roby Fecteau spoke about the lot, the issues with the cemetery, also about the fees and then answered questions.

The developer explained that the new amount, \$40,000 is his entire profit on the house, and actually more. He wants to be able to move forward and work on future projects.

Councilor Beaupre “motion to increase the civil penalty amount from \$20,000 to \$40,000 on the original order”

Second: Councilor Emhiser

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

1 nay – Councilor Lessard

Amendment passed.

Councilor Lessard expressed concerns with setting precedent.

Councilor LaFountain asked the CEO to explain the setbacks in this development and others in the area. CEO Fecteau explained them.

Vote on the order as amended: 7 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Gross, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser, and LaFountain.

1 nay – Councilor Lessard

Motion passed.

10. Public Addressing the Council - none

11. City Manager Report

City Manager Jim Bennett updated the Council on a bid to repair the river wall and the next steps in the process.

12. Other Business

None

13. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain wants to reaffirm his support and the community support of the work that CEO Fecteau does with FEMA and safety plans. He asked about the next safety planning meeting. Councilor Emhiser said it would be next week.

14. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman reminded everyone of the Employee Banquet this Thursday night and also the Maine Climate Council on the same night. School enrollment is up this year for the 8th straight year, high school athletic participation is also up.

15. Executive Session

Motion to enter executive sessions at 6:56 pm by Councilor LaFountain:

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

Added to agenda, 15.b. Executive Session MRS 405 (6) a Personnel Matters

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Councilor LaFountain at 8:16 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

16. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn, Councilor LaFountain at 8:16 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.