

City of Biddeford
City Council
November 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

Mayor Grohman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call - all present

Council President LaFountain
Councilor Lessard
Councilor St. Cyr
Councilor Emhiser
Councilor Whiting
Councilor Beaupre
Councilor Gross
Councilor Belanger
Councilor Doughty

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Mayor Grohman reported that agenda item 10a has been tabled by the Finance Committee.

4. Recognition

4.a Fire Department Promotions

Fire Chief Lawrence Best promoted Deputy Chief/Paramedic Steve Kiesman, Captain/Paramedic Steven Szostek, and Lieutenant/Paramedic Alexander Dorow.

5. Proclamation

5.a Extra Mile Day 2025- Proclamation

Mayor Grohman proclaimed November 1, 2025, “Extra Mile Day 2025,” and read the proclamation into the record.

6. Appointments

6.a 2025.152 Approval/ Mayoral Appointments to a Committee- Citizen

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

7. Presentation

7.a Financial Strategic Plan - Finance Director, Gerry Matherne

Finance Director Matherne presented a financial strategic plan for the city.

7.b City Hall Hours

Manager Dever presented a recommendation to the City Council

7.c Update on 2023 Comprehensive Plan

Assistant Planner Adi Iriqat provided an update on the 2023 Comprehensive Plan.

8. Public Addressing the Council

- One citizen thanked staff for their work and noted that it's disappointing when decisions are made by Council without supporting data.
- One citizen questioned Fire Department expenditures and requested a more conservative approach to spending.
- One citizen requested that the bike lane symbols and no parking signage on Hill Street be implemented to support the ordinance amendment. Manager Dever responded that the Public Works Director will be painting the bike paths on Hill Street in the spring.

9. Consideration of Minutes

9.a Council Minutes 10-21-25

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day

10.a 2025.153 Approval/Fire Department Marine Unit Bid and Sale/Auction of two (2) Marine Units This item was tabled by the Finance Committee.

10.b 2025.154 Report and Recommendation(s) on Conservation Options and Procedures for Tax-Acquired Property, Map-1, Lot-19 (South Street)

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

City Solicitor Harry Center will prepare a restrictive covenant to restrict building construction and limit use to conservation only for City Council consideration.

10.c 2025.156 Resolution AG decision UNE Pier

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

City Solicitor Harry Center requested an executive session on this matter (real estate) at the end of the meeting.

10.d 2025.157 Approval of Staff Accountant for the Finance Department

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: 7 approve/2 oppose (Councilor Lessard and Councilor St. Cyr were opposed)

Motion passed.

10.e 2025.158 Approval Extend the Ad Hoc Veterans Committee through June 30, 2026

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.f 2025.159 Limited Parking Lester B. Orcutt Blvd.

Motion by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: 6 approve/3 oppose (Council President Lafountain, Councilor Lessard, and Councilor Gross were opposed)

Motion passed.

11. Committee of the Whole

11.a Discussion Comprehensive Plan

Council opted not to enter Committee of the Whole for discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.

12. Public Addressing the Council

- One citizen voiced concerns regarding taxpayer support of affordable housing and tax breaks to large corporations.
- One citizen reported that the election day food drive was a huge success.
- One citizen provided information on the event, “Cranksgiving,” which is food drive on two wheels to collect for the food pantry and will be held on Saturday, November 22nd.
- One citizen shared election data that the city broke a 30-year turnout record on election day with 43% voter turnout. He commended the City Clerk, Fire Department, Police Department and staff for a job well done!

13. City Manager Report

Manager Dever thanked the City Clerk and election staff for a job well done on election night! Two bonds passed and public engagement will follow on the recreation bond to identify the priority recreation facilities. Revisions to the Charter Commission passed as well and the City Clerk will provide detailed information about the process in early 2026. Nomination papers will be available in March for the June 9th Election, and the first Commission Meeting will be conducted within 30 days of June 9th.

Manager Dever thanked the general assistance department staff for their great work over the past month with managing the long lines of those requesting assistance. In response to the SNAP benefit shortfall, the city is also working closely with the backpack program administered by the school.

Maine Water is handling the sewer billing as of November 1st and residents should be receiving a letter of information in the mail soon.

Manager Dever reported that the completion of the Elm Street project has been moved forward five days to November 20th. The ocean wall from Maddox Pond Road to the tennis courts is complete with the next portion to be completed in 30-45 days. The Alfred Street project will be put out to bid in February for spring schedules.

14. Committee Updates by Council

Councilor Belanger reported that the Policy Committee is reviewing ethical rules and the process of discipline.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain also thanked the City Clerk and election workers.

17. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman said that it has been an honor to serve as mayor for almost two years, noting a tough loss for him and great win for Mayor Elect LaFountain. In the crucible of the campaign, he apologized for creating division with negative comments and offered a full apology with heartfelt congratulations to Mayor Elect LaFountain.

Mayor Grohman highlighted the need for the public to participate in food distribution.

18. Executive Session

18.a 1 M.R.S. Section 405(6)c - Real Estate Matters

18.b 1 M.R.S. Section 405(6)d - Labor Negotiations

18.c 1 M.R.S. Section 405(6)a - Compensation of Employees

Motion by Councilor Belanger to enter executive session at 8:34 P.M. per 1 M.R.S., Section 405(6)c, 1 M.R.S., Section 405(6)d, and 1 M.R.S., Section 405(6)a.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion by Councilor Belanger to exit executive session at 10:35 P.M.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

19. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 P.M. by Councilor Belanger.

Second by Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.