

City of Biddeford
City Council
November 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

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

Item 11 (a) has been moved to a future meeting.

Add 2 executive sessions: one for real estate matters and one for labor negotiations

4. Public Hearing

4.a The Velvet Lounge Liquor License

Opened at: 6:02 pm

Comments: none

Closed at: 6:03 pm

5. Liquor License Consideration

5.a The Velvet Lounge Liquor License

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

6. Presentation

6.a Sustainability Commission Report to Council

The committee reviewed a presentation with Council.

7. Appointments

7.a 2025.162 Approval/ Mayoral Appointments to Committees—Citizen

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion passed.

8. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen thanked an outgoing councilor for their work in the ward, committees and the city.

Recess – there was a brief recess from 6:25 – 6:37 pm for the councilors to gather in celebration of their term.

9. Consideration of Minutes

9.a Council Minutes 11-6-25

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Second Reading

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

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Lessard – motion to amend to “have the city remove all rocks and barriers in the right of way for 1000’ from the corner of Ocean Ave and Lester B. Orcutt Boulevard”

Second: Councilor St. Cyr

Councilor Beaupre explained that our current ordinances already allow for that. There was a discussion on how to communicate with the residents in that area. The City Manager and Public Works Director will work on a plan for public engagement and a timeline.

Motion to amend and second were withdrawn

Vote on the order: 5 yeas: Councilors St. Cyr, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and Belanger

4 nays – Councilors LaFountain, Lessard, Gross and Doughty

Motion passed.

11. Orders of the Day

11.a 2025.163 Approval Police Department Contract - pending

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

11.b 2025.155 Approval of Change to City Hall Hours

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Whiting

Several citizens expressed support for staff input in the process.

Councilors discussed feedback they have received, they would like it to be looked into further and come back to council.

Vote: 0 yeas, 9 nays

Motion failed.

11.c 2025.161 Approval/Code of Ordinances, Ch. 2, Art 1, Sec. 2-3 Code of Ethics

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Councilor Belanger explained the Policy Committee changes to the ordinance.

Councilor Lessard – motion to amend Sec 2-4, iii; strike “an” in the last sentence and add “organization” 3. a. remove “ce”; and 2-4, last sentence of the introduction, strike “shall listen to all citizens and”

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Amendment passed.

Councilor Whiting made the following motions to amend:

2-5 (b) b add “alleged” and commas after *ethics* and *by-laws*.

2-5 (b) e add “as elected or appointed officials”

2-5 (c) second sentence, strike “applicable to the board, commission or committee that”; add a comma; and strike “operations”.

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor.

Amendments passed.

Councilor Whiting – motion to amend 2-5 (b) h strike “making decisions” and add “in any quasi-judicial setting stating a position”

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote on the amendment: 8 yeas – Councilors Lessard, St. Cyr, Belanger, Gross, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

1 nay – Councilor Doughty.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11.d 2025.146 Approval To Sign Contract To Place The Order To Purchase A New Fire

Department Tower Truck

Item not motioned or seconded.

11.e 2025.145 Approval To Sign Contract To Place The Order To Purchase A New Fire

Department Ambulance

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor Lessard

Several citizens asked for more information on the replacement schedule and funding.

Several councilors commented that the timing would be better left to the new incoming council. They will be working on the next budget soon.

Councilor Belanger – motion to Table item until the next council meeting on 12/16/25.

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Item Tabled.

11.f 2025.164 Approval/Appoint Finance Director as Treasurer for City

Motion: Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12. Public Addressing the Council

Several citizens thanked the current council for their work over the past two years.

One citizen gave input on the public engagement process for the Lester B. Orcutt Blvd. item.

13. City Manager Report

City Manager Dever thanked the council for their service and support. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

14. Committee Updates by Council

None

15. Other Business

Councilor Belanger thanked the councilors for their work together during his terms.

16. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain cancelled the December CIP meeting and other committee meetings that would not have a quorum between the 12/2/25 inauguration and the 12/16/25

council meeting when new committee appointments will be made. He thanked everyone for their work during the past two years.

17. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman thanked the council for all their work and support over the past two years.

18. Executive Session

18.a 1 M.R.S. Section 405(6) a - Personnel Matters

Added:

1 MRS Section 405 (6) c – Real Estate Matters

1 MRS Section 405 (6) d – Labor Negotiations

Motion to enter executive sessions by Councilor Belanger at 8:12 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to exit executive sessions at 9:37 pm by Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

19. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:37 pm by Councilor Belanger

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned