

City of Biddeford
City Council
January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call - all present

Council President Beaupre

Councilor Lessard

Councilor Vadnais

Councilor Boston

Councilor Woods

Council Doughty

Councilor Kurtz

Councilor Pierson

Councilor Cote

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

None

4. Presentation

4.a CDBG Plans

Jessica Wilson, Community Development & Grants Manager, reviewed the 5-year plan, FY24 and FY25 plans.

5. Public Hearing

5.a CDBG Public Hearing

The public hearing opened at 6:26 pm

Public Comments: none

The public hearing closed at 6:26 pm

6. Appointments

6.a 2026.07 Approval Mayoral Appointments to Citizen Committees

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Kurtz requested to abstain from the vote.

Councilor Lessard: motion to allow Councilor Kurtz to abstain from the vote.

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Vote: 8 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais, Cote, Pierson, Doughty, Woods, Boston, and Beaupre.

1 abstained – Councilor Kurtz.

Motion passed.

6.b 2026.08 Approval Mayoral Appointments of Councilors to Committees

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

6.c 2026.14 Approval Mayoral Appointments Institutional Zone ad hoc committee

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

7. Public Addressing the Council

Two citizens spoke about the potential ICE activities in the area, and one requested a petition to the Governor.

One citizen spoke in support of the public library.

One citizen spoke about public beach access.

One citizen requested that agenda items 10.e and 10.f be moved to the beginning of the Orders of the Day section.

Councilor Cote – motion to move 10.e and 10.f to the beginning of the Orders of the Day.

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: 6 yeas – Councilors Cote, Kurtz, Doughty, Woods, Boston, and Beaupre

3 nays – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais, and Pierson.

Motion passed.

8. Consideration of Minutes

8.a Council Minutes 1-6-26

Motion: Councilor Beaure

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9. Second Reading

9.a 2026.02 Approval to change the current two-hour parking privilege to no parking in front of 93 Alfred Street, odd side, to allow for the existing bus stop location.

Motion: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day

10.a 2026.10 Approval Winterfest Special Events Application

Motion: Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Woods

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.b 2026.09 Approval Winterfest fee waiver

Motion: Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Beaupre advised the event organizers to submit future funding requests during the budget process.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.c 2026.12 Approval Abatement Request for Tax Map 2 Block 5 Lot 5-Thebarger- 7

Andrews Rd.

Motion: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.d 2026.13 Approval Abatement Request for Tax Map 43 Lot 11, Dube- 9 Decary Rd.

Motion: Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Pierson asked questions about the history of this request.

City Assessor Deanne Vail provided the background of the process and the timing of this request.

Vote: 4 yeas – Councilors Cote, Kurtz, Woods and Boston

5 nays – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais, Pierson, Doughty and Beaupre

Motion failed.

10.e 2026.11 Approval Institutional Zone and University Use Moratorium

Motion: Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Lessard

Public Comment: three citizens spoke in favor of the moratorium; 3 citizens spoke against the moratorium.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10.f 2026.16 Approval/ Moratorium on mobile home lot fee increases

Motion: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Woods

Public Comment: 23 residents of Granite Estates were present; 5 residents of that park provided details of the price increases and the timeline.

Two citizens spoke about financing costs and unintended consequences of the moratorium.

Councilor Beaupre – motion to restrict the public comment to in person comments.

Second – Councilor Vadnais

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Cote shared the price changes in that park since 2016.

Several Councilors expressed concern that this would impact other park owners who are not raising their fees so quickly. Some Councilors expressed concern for the residents of Granite Park but did not think there would be enough time for a thorough review of the situation for all parks in Biddeford, a review of the current and pending state laws, enforcement issues, and creating a precedent. Councilors requested that the Mayor consider creating an ad hoc committee to review this.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Beaupre – nay, Councilor Lessard – nay, Councilor Vadnais – nay, Councilor Boston, nay, Councilor Woods, yea, Councilor Doughty – nay, Councilor Kurtz – yea, Councilor Pierson – nay, Councilor Cote – yea

6 nays; 3 yeas.

Motion failed.

10.g 2026.15 Approval Amend Council Rules

Motion: Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Beaupre explained the reason for the request.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Beaupre – motion to waive the rules to have the second reading and allow this to take effect in 30 days.

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen spoke about the Council votes tonight and the concept of elasticity.

12. City Manager Report

City Manager Truc Dever said that we would be moving from Zoom to Teams for city meetings, starting with the Policy Committee meeting next week. There will be a public outreach effort to provide instructions. She provided an update on the Personnel Committee and recruitment efforts. She gave an update on the IRS filing situation from 2021 and answered questions.

13. Committee Updates by Council

Councilor Kurtz will be the new liaison to Heart of Biddeford.

Councilor Woods is on the Public Art Commission; they are reaching out to other committees for collaboration. They are working on an ordinance that will guide the commission, it will go to the Policy Committee first.

14. Other Business

Councilor Boston is the liaison to the Chamber of Commerce; there are two new businesses at 2 Main Street that will have a ribbon cutting on Thursday.

15. Council President Addressing the Council

Councilor President Beaupre spoke about the council workshop retreat held on Monday and requested additional public access in the future. He also spoke about complaints of strong cannabis odors from businesses and would like it to be addressed.

16. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor LaFountain thanked Public Works for their hard work during winter storms, they have already had 20 storms this season. He mentioned street safety, especially bus safety.

17. Executive Session

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

Motion to enter at 8:55 pm by Councilor Pierson

Second: Councilor Boston

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to exit at 8:59 pm by Councilor Kurtz

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Kurtz: motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm

Second: Councilor Pierson

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Kurtz motion to enter executive session at 9:00 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Motion to exit at 9:33 pm by Councilor Boston

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

18. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned