

City of Biddeford
City Council
December 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call

Council President LaFountain - present
Councilor Lessard - present
Councilor Ortiz - excused
Councilor Emhiser - present
Councilor Whiting - present
Councilor Beaupre - present via zoom
Councilor Gross - excused
Councilor Belanger - present
Councilor Doughty - excused

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

Item 5a will move to the 12.17.24 agenda

4. Appointments

4.a 2024.195 Mayoral Appointment-Councilor

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

4.b 2024.181 Mayoral Appointment to Committee-Citizen

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Whiting

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

4.c 2024.194 Finance Director Appointment

Motion: Councilor Emhiser

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

5. Presentation

5.a Parking Financials Update -

This item moved to 12-17-24 agenda

5.b Update from School Superintendent Jeremy Ray

Superintendent Ray presented school budget and enrollment documents to the Council.

6. Public Hearing

6.a School Department Career and Technical Education Equipment Bond

Public Hearing opened at: 6:41 pm

There were no public comments or questions.

Superintendent Ray explained the process of the grant and the equipment it will be used for.

Closed at: 6:44 pm

7. Public Addressing the Council

One citizen asked about school demographics and about food sources for the school system.

One citizen spoke about free speech and provided documents to the City Solicitor.

8. Consideration of Minutes

8.a Council Minutes 11-19-24

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

9. Second Reading

9.a 2024.180) Approval/School Department Career and Technical Education Equipment

Bond 10. Orders of the Day

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

10. Orders of the Day

10.a 2024.184 Approval/Lead Hazard Reduction at 161 Cleaves Street

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Community Development Coordinator Jess Wilson explained the project and the bid.

Councilor LaFountain shared that this passed unanimously in the Finance Committee.

Councilor Lessard said the presentation in both meetings was very well done.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

10.b 2024.193 Approval/Biddeford Little League Canteen Renovation Proposal at Mayfield

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Kim Cochrane-Coleman, Board of Directors Biddeford Little League Softball, spoke about the need for the project. They will plan to ask the City for future support from Public Works for a 40' sewer line.

Several Councilors complimented the presentation and supported the project.

City Manager Jim Bennett requested that they submit all plans to the City for approval and that the project have signage indicating that it is owned by the Little League and not the City.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

10.c 2024.192 Approval/PFML HR

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Lessard

Diana DePaola, Director of Human Resources, gave an update to the Council. She explained the State requirements and the involvement of the Personnel Committee.

City Manager Jim Bennett explained that the question is whether or not to have the nonunion employees match the union employees for the first six months.

Councilor Belanger explained that the Personnel Committee did not want different amounts for the union/nonunion groups and wanted this to come to Council for a decision.

Councilor Belanger motion to amend to add “through June 30, 2025” after the January 1st, 2025 date in the order.

Second: Councilor Emhiser

Vote on the amendment: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Amendment passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor. Councilor Beaupre yes via zoom.

Motion passed.

11. Public Addressing the Council

None

12. City Manager Report

City Manager Jim Bennett spoke about the formula for the state revenue share 2 category. Leadership is setting up a meeting with our legislative delegation to discuss this issue.

13. Other Business

Several councilors expressed appreciation for Public Works. There is a storm coming this week and they asked the public to be patient.

Councilor Lessard spoke about the success of the Sunday hours at Public Works and hoped it could grow to 3 dates next year.

14. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain asked the City Manager to have staff put together a strategic plan for the opioid use settlement funds.

He also asked for an ARPA fund balance update and if funds are still available to bring them to the Council at the 12-17-24 meeting. He mentioned Seeds of Hope and the Little League project as possible uses of the funds.

He requested that the January Council Workshop discuss the condominium moratorium issue.

15. Mayor Addressing the Council

Mayor Grohman reminded citizens that they can sign up for the snowstorm parking ban notices.

The Council will meet for a workshop on 12-10-24, the agenda is posted.

Channel 3 is up and running and has added programming.

Holiday Fest is this Friday from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, details are on the Heart of Biddeford website.

16. Executive Session

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

Councilor Belanger motion to enter executive session at 7:23 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Belanger motion to come out of executive session at 8:24 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

17. Adjourn

Councilor Belanger motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm

Second: Councilor Lessard.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.