

City of Biddeford
City Council
February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Teams

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

A moment of silence will be added to honor the Rev. Jessie Jackson.

4. Proclamation

4.a Black History Month

Mayor LaFountain read the proclamation and conducted the moment of silence.

5. Staffing Updates

5.a January 2026 Staffing Update

Mayor LaFountain read the list of staff updates.

6. Appointments

6.a 2026.30 Approval- Mayoral Appointments to a Committee-Citizens

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

7. Presentation

7.a Public Art Commission

Jessica Muise, Chair of the Biddeford Public Art Commission shared a presentation.

8. Public Hearing

8.a CDBG Public Hearing - documents are listed in the orders below

Public Hearing opened at 6:33 pm

Public comments – none

Public Hearing closed at 6:33 pm

8.b Recreation Bond Public Comments

One citizen spoke in support of the Biddeford Cultural Heritage Center.

Nine citizens spoke in support of a skatepark.

9. Public Addressing the Council

Two citizens spoke about sidewalks.

One citizen spoke about the comp plan.

One citizen spoke in support of public art.

One citizen spoke about opportunities for officiating weddings.

One citizen spoke about racial justice.

One citizen spoke about the importance of rent and food and for meeting minutes.

10. Consideration of Minutes

10.a Council Minutes 2-3-26

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11. Second Reading

11.a 2026.21 Approval Amend Ordinance Code Enforcement Fees

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

11.b 2026.22 Approval Amend Shellfish Ordinance

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Councilor Beaupre – Motion to amend section Sec 704-105 C Fees to delete each phase of “determined annually” and replace with the corresponding license fee as follows:

Resident Commercial \$200

Resident Noncommercial \$400

Resident Recreational: \$30

Nonresident Recreational \$60

Resident/nonresident one day \$20

There was a discussion about a City Fee Schedule, it will be created in the future starting with the Policy Committee.

Vote on the amendment: 6 yeas – Councilors Cote, Pierson, Kurtz, Beaupre, Woods and Doughty.

3 nays – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais and Boston.

Amendment passes.

Councilor Lessard – motion to postpone this until after June 1st.

No second.

Motion failed.

Vote on the order as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Beaupre yea, Lessard nay, Vadnais nay, Boston, nay, Woods yea, Doughty yea, Kurtz yea, Pierson yea, Cote yea; 6 yeas, 3 nays.

Motion passed.

12. Orders of the Day

12.a 2026.25 Approval CDBG 2024-2028 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Budget

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12.b 2026.26 Approval CDBG Year One FY2024 Annual Action Plan and Budget

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Public comment – one citizen asked about the Wi-Fi hotspots.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12.c 2026.27 Approval CDBG Year Two FY2025 Annual Action Plan and Budget

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

12.d 2026.28 Approve Investment Policy and Administration

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Several Councilors asked questions about the process for this policy and had questions in about the Limitations section and the timeline for Internal Controls. Others had questions about the investments.

Councilor Cote – motion to postpone this until June 1, 2026.

Second: none

Motion failed.

Councilor Kurtz – motion to amend order to revisit this no later than June 30, 2026.

Second: Councilor Cote.

Councilor Kurtz – modify the amendment “be it further ordered that the City Council will revisit this policy by June 30, 2026.” at the end of the order.

Second: Council Cote agreed to the modification.

Vote on the amendment: 0 yeas

Unanimous against. 9 nays

Amendment failed.

Vote on the order: 8 yeas – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais, Pierson, Doughty, Kurtz, Woods, Boston and Beaupre

1 nay – Councilor Cote.

Motion passed.

*12.e 2026.29 Resolution in Support of LD 2124 Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding
using Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue*

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Doughty

Public comment: York County Commissioner Dutremble explained the County’s position on the resolution.

One citizen spoke in favor of the resolution.

Councilor Lessard is also on the York County Budget Committee and explained the budget impact of the resolution.

Mayor LaFountain explained the Mayors' Coalition and several local representatives to the state legislature support this.

Councilor Doughty asked to recuse himself from the discussion and vote on this item.

Councilor Beaupre - motion to allow Councilor Doughty to recuse himself.

Second: Councilor Woods

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

1 nay – Councilor Lessard

Motion passed.

Vote on the resolution:

4 yeas – Councilors Cote, Kurtz, Woods and Beaupre

4 nays – Councilors Lessard, Vadnais, Pierson and Boston

1 abstained – Councilor Doughty.

It is a tie vote 4-4; Mayor LaFountain will cast the deciding vote.

Mayor LaFountain votes nay.

Motion failed.

13. Public Addressing the Council

None

14. City Manager Report

City Manager Truc Dever gave an update on the Comp Plan, on the FY24 Audit, on the hiring progress with key positions, and on the kitchen fire and water damage incidents at the Fire Department. She also shared information about a letter from UNE stating their interest in extending a natural gas line to the campus.

15. Committee Updates by Council

None.

16. Other Business

Councilor Kurtz asked about future construction community updates, especially for the Downtown residents. He also wished everyone a happy Lunar New Year.

17. Council President Addressing the Council

Council President Beaupre listed concerns with the Comp Plan process, the process for city policies, access to public restrooms, IPP and the recent kitchen fire.

18. Mayor Addressing the Council

Council President LaFountain shared several positive community events including the success of the elementary school and high school basketball teams; the success of Winterfest; the Biddeford Middle School theater production, the Cardiac Save event recently celebrated at the Fire Department, and the recent visits by state representatives and Senator King.

19. Executive Session

19.a Executive Session 1 MRS 405 (6) d Contract Negotiations

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

Motion to enter at 8:51 pm by Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor Lessard

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Cote – motion to exit executive session at 8:51 pm

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Pierson – motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Pierson motion to enter executive session at 8:51pm

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9:55 PM

Motion to come out of Executive Session: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

9:55 PM

Motion to extend meeting until 11 PM: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Councilor Lessard opposed.

Motion passed.

9:55 PM

Motion to re-enter Executive Session: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

10:48 PM

Motion to come out of Executive Session: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

20. Adjourn

10:48 PM

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Cote

Second: Councilor Kurtz

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned