

City of Biddeford

Policy Committee

February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call

Councilor Belanger – present

Councilor LaFountain – present

Councilor Beaupre – present

Jake Pierson – present

Brian Phinney – present

Rene O’Neil - absent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda

None

4. Approval of Minutes

4.a Policy Committee Minutes of January 27, 2025

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5. Discussion/Review

5.a Amendment Shellfish Ordinance

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Councilor LaFountain asked about the Council Review

Councilor Belanger asked about the nonresident allocation.

City Clerk Patterson answered that the rates haven't changed in several years. The allocation combines the numbers that have been used, these changes were recommended by the DMR.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5.b Vacant Building Registration

Motion: Councilor LaFountain

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Councilors asked questions about the changes from the last version, the definitions and how this would work with seasonal homeowners.

Code Enforcement Director Roby Fecteau explained the changes and definitions.

Councilor Belanger – motion to amend section E, add number 5 “properties under construction that have not been issued an occupancy permit or maintain active permit status”

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote on the amendment – Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Mr. Pierson spoke about several emails from the public. They did not want seasonal homes to be exempt, wanted apartment buildings with an empty storefront to qualify as vacant, and recommended higher fees. He did not agree with the first two points.

Councilor Belanger – motion to amend 1. Vacant Buildings add “either” to the first sentence “either of the following criteria” change 1 and 2 to A and B, then 3,4,5 as B 1,2,3.

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor Belanger asked about the exemptions to farm zones. CEO Fecteau explained that the language was similar in other communities and many agricultural buildings are used seasonally.

Councilor LaFountain – motion to amend B - exclusions to include “anything used for agricultural purposes” and strike C. “except for the Rural Farm (RF) and Limited Rural Farm (LRF) zones”.

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Public comment – one person spoke in favor of the amendment.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor LaFountain – motion to amend D.2. 4th bullet add “semi” to annual cap.

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Councilor LaFountain – motion to double the fees in section D.

Second: Councilor Beaupre

Public comment – one citizen spoke in favor of the increases.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

Vote on the order as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5.c Amendment Citizens' Advisory Committee Ordinance

Motion: Councilor Beaupre

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Jessica Wilson, Community Development & Grants Manager, explained that this came before the Policy Committee once before but did not proceed. Current changes are language clarifications in the Purpose section and also a more detailed description of the application process.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion passed.

5.d Comprehensive Board/Committee/Commission Review

The committee discussed the different types of committees and will start a review of each committee's language, number of appointments, responsibilities and the possibility of combining some of them if appropriate. Some committees are created in the City Charter, some by State statutes and others by ordinances. The structure and responsibilities are listed in several locations, and they would like to review them with all of the references listed in one document. They would like to start the review at the next meeting with charter and statutory committees.

6. Adjourn

Councilor Beaupre – motion to adjourn at 6:54 pm

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned.