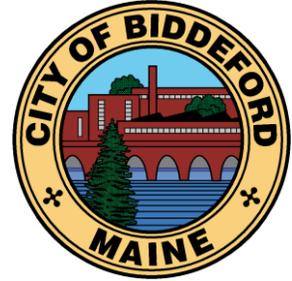


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHERYL FOURNIER NOMINATED AS BIDDEFORD'S NEXT FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**City Manager Confirms His Selection of Saco's Current Finance Director**

**BIDDEFORD, ME June 5, 2017** - The Biddeford City Council will be asked to support City Manager James A. Bennett's nomination of Cheryl Fournier to become Biddeford's next Finance Director. The City Council will consider his nomination as part of their regular Council meeting on Tuesday, June 6.

"I am pleased to nominate Ms. Fournier to this position," shared City Manager Bennett. "She has been employed in the world of finance since 1991 including twenty years of leadership responsibility. Her background includes both successful public and private sector experiences. I am confident that her leadership, abilities and passion will be an outstanding addition to the talented Biddeford team," added Bennett.

Earlier, Ms. Fournier was nominated by both Bennett and Saco City Administrator Kevin Sutherland to serve as the joint Finance Director for both communities. While the Biddeford City Council overwhelmingly supported the plan, the Saco City Council narrowly rejected it.

In reflecting on that experience, City Manager Bennett shared that when Ms. Fournier first indicated her interest in the Biddeford job, he immediately reached out to Mr. Sutherland to discuss the potential to share the position. "Biddeford and Saco are working very hard to become the most progressive communities in the State in terms of finding new and innovating ways to work together while protecting the uniqueness of each community. Biddeford, attempting to first develop a model where sharing her talents was critical in the long term relationship between the communities, When that option was no longer available, it was my responsibility to hire the best available talent," stated Bennett.

Mayor Alan Casavant added "We are pleased that Cheryl has shown her interest in the progressive changes being made in Biddeford. I have been impressed with her contributions, including her service as the acting City Administrator in Saco. I look forward to her talents helping us with our goals."

"It is with mixed emotions that I have accepted the offer to become Biddeford's Finance Director" stated Cheryl Fournier. "I have enjoyed my time with Saco. It will be very difficult to leave my colleagues, many of who have become friends. I look forward to becoming an active member of the Biddeford team," she added.

Ms. Fournier was selected from a candidate pool that included current and former Finance Directors in Maine Municipalities. If confirmed by the City Council, she will begin July 3, 2017.

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For additional information, contact Jim Bennett, City Manager at phone (207) 284-9313 or by email at [james.bennett@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:james.bennett@biddefordmaine.org).