UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Monday**  
April 2, 2018:  
6:30 PM Downtown Development Commission  
   (2nd floor conference room)

**Tuesday**  
April 3, 2018  
5:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting (live)  
6:00 PM City Council Meeting (live)

**Wednesday**  
April 4, 2018  
4:00 PM Community Center Committee Meeting  
   (Community Center)  
6:00 PM Planning Board (live)

**Thursday**  
April 5, 2018  
6:00 PM Council Meeting - Listening Session  
   (Council Chambers)

**Friday**  
April 6, 2018  
8:30 AM EIC (2nd floor conference room)

**Monday**  
April 9, 2018  
5:30 PM CALEA Assessment Meeting

**Tuesday**  
April 10, 2018  
6:00 PM Council Meeting - Listening Session  
   (Council Chambers)  
7:00 PM Solid Waste Committee meeting  
   (Public Works)

**Wednesday**  
April 11, 2018  
4:00 PM Historic Preservation (2nd fl. conf. rm)  
6:00 PM Zoning Board of Appeals (live)

**Thursday**  
April 12, 2018  
1:30 PM City Staff - Listening Session  
   (Council Chambers)  
5:30 PM Budget Committee Meeting (live)

**Click here** for the full calendar.

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City of Biddeford to hold “Listening Sessions”

The Biddeford City Council is interested in obtaining public input and comments prior to any parking regulation changes in the downtown area. Due to the work schedules of citizens and business owners, there will be three separate public opportunities for comment plus an online comment option. Two opportunities will be in the evening in front of the Biddeford City Council and one will be held by staff during the day. The public opportunities will be established as listening sessions rather than public hearings. Listening sessions are voluntary, less formal, and allow for more flexibility. The sessions will not involve comment from members of the city council or staff in order to obtain as many comments as possible during each listening session. Each scheduled “listening session” opportunity is listed below.

**Thursday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m. - Council Chambers:**  
This will be the first council listening session.

**Tuesday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m. - Council Chambers:**  
This will be the second council listening session.

**Thursday, April 12th at 1:30 p.m. - Council Chambers:**  
This will be the third listening session with staff.

Additionally there will be an online option for members of the public unable to attend any of the listening sessions. The online option will allow for comments to be submitted through the website:  
[http://www.biddefordmaine.org/parking](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/parking)

Admittedly, there is public confusion about whether there exists a formal plan already with specific changes. There is not. Earlier in the process, staff made several assumptions about changes that should be considered in order to evaluate whether a parking garage could be built without the need for property taxes. Those assumptions were included to generate a financing model. While the Council reviewed those assumptions to understand them for the purpose of the financing, the city council has not had any significant discussions about the assumptions. The next step in the process is to provide the public with an opportunity to provide comment on parking and any changes to parking policy before a formal plan is developed. This is the goal of the listening sessions and the other opportunities for the public to provide their thoughts. Mayor Alan Casavant would like the citizens to know that “as the city proceeds with addressing the present and future parking needs of the downtown, it is important that residents and affected business owners and employees become part of the process, as it is critical that those voices are heard. I urge members of our community to take the time to offer their thoughts and insight on this important issue”.

Once the listening sessions have been completed, staff will compile all comments obtained at the listening sessions and from the online form and will prepare a draft parking management plan for consideration by the city council on or before Monday, June 18, 2018. The city council will then review the draft parking management plan following the traditional public process established for meetings of the city council. During this review, the public will have opportunity to comment on the draft parking management plan and any revisions considered subsequent to final adoption.
**CALEA Assessment**

In 2016, the Biddeford Police Department began the voluntary process of Law Enforcement Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), a national recognition of public safety professional excellence. Since the time we began the process, the department has undergone critical self-assessment and most recently, a mock-assessment that involved the creation and revision of policies and Standard Operating Procedures in order to be in compliance with CALEA’s nationally recognized standards and best practices. “The standards upon which the Law Enforcement Accreditation Program is based reflect the current thinking and experience of law enforcement practitioners and researchers. Major law enforcement associations, leading educational and training institutions, governmental agencies, as well as law enforcement executives internationally, acknowledge CALEA’s Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies and its Accreditation Programs as benchmarks for professional law enforcement agencies.”

On April 08, 2018, a team of external law enforcement assessors from CALEA will be arriving in Biddeford for a three-day visit, during which time they will be examining all aspects of the department’s policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. This assessment team will be seeking to verify that the department meets all of the 156 different state of the art standards established by the Commission. If BPD is found in compliance with these standards, the agency will be awarded accreditation status. The Accreditation is valid for four years, and during this time, the department required to submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with the commission’s standards, which are subject to ongoing review and revision in accordance with nationally recognized practices.

As part of this onsite assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer commentary to the assessment team at a public forum, which is scheduled for April 09, 2018 at 5:30pm. The forum is being held at Biddeford City Hall in the Council Chambers, 205 Main Street, Biddeford, ME. Those who are unable to attend the public session, but would still like to provide commentary to the assessment team, may do so by calling 207-571-1662 on April 09, 2018 between the hours of 2:30pm and 4:30pm. Written comments about the department’s ability to meet the standards for accreditation may be sent to the Commission at: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155. Public and telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the department’s ability to comply with the CALEA Standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Biddeford Police Department, 39 Alfred Street, Biddeford, ME. For any questions or clarifications please contact Lt. Ricky Doyon, Accreditation Manager, at 207-282-5127 or ricky.doyon@biddefordmaine.org.

For more information regarding CALEA, please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155; or call (703) 352-4225 or email calea@calea.org.

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**Be Part of the Solution!**

**Free Community Presentation**

**Former NFL Patriot Chris and Kathi Sullivan**

Chris, a former standout defensive lineman for Boston College and the New England Patriots, endured personal struggles with injuries, anxiety, and depression, which led to alcohol and drug abuse. Chris totaled four cars, was arrested for five DUI’s, and checked into fifteen rehabilitation centers all in a six-year period. With the unyielding support of family and friends, Chris pulled himself out of addiction. Prior to meeting his wife Kathi, she lost her 17-year-old daughter Taylor as a result of a night of underage drinking. She received the horrific news on an October morning in 2008 that her daughter was found drowned in two feet of swamp water.

Come hear their story about recovery, grief, and overcoming negative emotions thanks to positive support systems.

Chris and Kathi will be joined by the Center for Grieving Children, the Community Bicycle Center and the Red Ribbon Committee of the Biddeford Saco Rotary Club.

**Thursday, April 26**

**6:30-7:30 PM**

**Biddeford High School**

**Little Theater**

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Thank you for reading!