



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, June 26, 2017

Volume 17.21

A1

City Council July Meeting

City Council meetings are normally held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 6:00 PM.

The first Tuesday in July is the 4th. Instead of meeting that evening, the Council will meet on Tuesday July 11.

The second meeting in July will be on their normal third Tuesday, July 18.

As a reminder, if you cannot attend the meeting in person, you way watch meetings live on Biddeford’s public access channel 3 available through Spectrum cable service. You can also watch meetings live via streaming video on the web. The link to that free service is found at the end of this article. Using the same link, you can also watch replays of any other meeting that you missed.

<http://www.biddefordmaine.org/video>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thurs June 29

8:00 am – Downtown Task Force
(City Hall 1st Floor Mayor’s Office)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Tuesday, July 4

Most City Offices are Closed

The next edition of the Beat
will be published July 10th

Main Street Improvements...More to Occur

If you travel in downtown in the next couple of weeks, you might be surprised to see more work being done. In fact, you may find yourself shaking your head and wondering if your city’s staff actually knows what it is doing. Why would tearing up brand new asphalt make sense?

As part of the upgrade, new crosswalks and improvements are being installed. The crosswalks are being built from pavers and original cobblestone from the street itself. In addition, the major intersections will have a circle of cobblestone in the middle. These cobblestones are also original from the street. *(continued on A2)*



FY18 Budget Q & A

Here are a few commonly asked Q &A about the budget that was passed by the City Council:

Q: How many new full time employees are included in the budget?

A: There is actually a reduction of 1.5 full time positions in the budget with a directive for another position to be eliminated during the year. Last year, the City also reduced the full time employee count by 3. *(continued A2)*

Main St Improvements (continued from A1)

There were two alternatives available. The first was to complete all of the work prior to the paving. The other was to do the crosswalk and other work after the paving. City staff met with the state engineers, our consultant engineers, and the contractors. All were in agreement to pave first in order to achieve the best and financially most prudent results.

By paving first, the gap between the pavement and work would be easier to achieve than trying to pave up to the work. Also, the paving equipment would have marked up the new work. The machinery would have also loosened the work, causing the crosswalk contractor to have to return a second time.

Instead, the contractors did all of the subsurface prep work for each of the crosswalk and intersection feature locations prior to pavement installation. In those areas, a very thin amount of pavement was placed. This approach will not only save money but also create a better final project.

The final crosswalk work is expected to be completed within four weeks.

FY18 Budget Q & A (continued from A1)

Q: How much money is in the budget for road improvements?

A: There are several sources of funding for road improvements. This year's budget has \$521,894 for paving. This is the first time in a few years that the budget has raised money for paving. In fact, there is a significant increase in spending for capital items (\$1,515,547). Last year, only \$700,935 was budgeted; 2 years ago only \$200,416 was raised.

Q: How much tax money is in the budget for the parking garage?

A: There is no money in the budget for a parking garage. In fact, there has been no decision made to build one. Ironically, if a decision is made to build a parking garage, **there will no property taxes used to pay for it.**

Q: How is my tax bill going to change?

A: If you own your home and qualify for the homestead exemption, you will likely to see your tax bill go down again. However, we cannot tell you with certainty the exact impact yet for two reasons. One, the lack of a state budget makes it impossible to know the final figures. We anticipate that they will not raid revenues that are designated by law to help property taxpayers (beyond their current raids). Second, we are awaiting the final numbers from the assessor. The overall growth in the community, especially in the downtown, is going to help significantly. If the Legislature passes a budget soon, we expect to set the final tax rate in July.

La Kermesse Parade Pictures



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