



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

VOLUME 19.08

Stay up to date on all things Biddeford!

Visit our website:



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

Follow us on Twitter: [@BiddMECity](https://twitter.com/BiddMECity)



Follow us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/BiddefordGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/BiddefordGovernment)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are located in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless otherwise stated. Live meetings can be viewed on the [City of Biddeford website](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/) or on the Public Access Channel.

Monday	February 25, 2019
6:00 p.m.	Joint City Council and School Committee Workshop @ Biddeford Regional Center of Technology
Tuesday	February 26, 2019
10:00 a.m.	Staff Review Committee
7:00 p.m.	School Committee (Live) @ BHS Little Theater
Thursday	February 28, 2019
6:30 p.m.	Airport Commission Meeting (Live)
Tuesday	March 5, 2019
5:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Live)
6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting (Live)

All meetings are subject to change. [Click here](#) to view updates on the full city calendar.



The City of Biddeford is using Polco as a new tool for civic engagement! **To begin anonymously answering survey questions from City officials, visit polco.us/biddeford or download the Polco app for iOS or Android.** The current survey about community events is available until March 2.

If Polco is anonymous, why am I asked for my personal information?

Citizens are asked to enter their name, zip code, and email address to register for an account. Polco asks for this information to verify if participants are registered voters in Biddeford, although *you do not have to be registered to vote to answer questions on Polco*. Residents' individual information cannot be accessed by the City or other users, but may be summarized in demographic reports. Registering for an account on Polco will also ensure that you receive a weekly email letting you know when the City has posted new questions that we need your input on.

POLCO RESULTS ON PARKS

Thank you to those who provided feedback on our first Polco survey about public parks! Some of the facts we learned from the survey included:

- Two-thirds of respondents have used a public park in Biddeford in the past six months.
- Most respondents prefer to use parks to exercise or to relax outdoors.
- Clifford Park and Rotary Park are the most visited parks by the respondents.

Complete results of the survey questions can be found at Polco.us/Biddeford.

We are listening to your feedback, and we plan to use this information as we consider creating a new park in Biddeford. Stay tuned for the next set of questions about parks, which will be posted on **Wednesday, February 27**.

BUDGET CALENDAR PREVIEW

The City Council will begin setting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget in March. A preliminary schedule of budget-related meetings is included below:

March 5: The City Manager will present the budget to the City Council

March 11: Budget Committee Workshop

March 12 and March 14: Department Heads will present their budgets to the Budget Committee.

March 19: School Budget Presentation at the City Council Meeting.

April 2: First Public Hearing at the City Council Meeting

Tentative Budget Committee meetings are also scheduled on the following dates:

March 25, March 28, April 8, April 18, April 25, and April 30.

All meetings are subject to change. [Click here](#) to view updates on the full city calendar.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

At their February 19 meeting, the City Council extended the free parking time period in the Yellow Lot to the first two hours of parking in any calendar day. Previously, the first hour of parking in the Yellow Lot was free. Additional parking time after the first two hours can be purchased from the parking kiosks at the hourly rate.

The Council also approved a 180-day moratorium that prohibits the Planning Board from granting parking waivers in the downtown for new developments. The moratorium was put in place as a response to the parking shortage in the downtown.

Of note, the Council also amended a proposed ordinance on disposal fees at the Transfer Station. The proposal, which was described in [last week's Biddeford Beat](#), originally included a \$4.00 per cubic yard fee for resident brush disposal and a \$20 per cubic yard fee for large household items. The Council amendment removed those fees from the proposed ordinance. The remaining fees include a \$10 per cubic yard fee for commercial haulers for both brush and grass disposal. The proposed ordinance must pass a second reading by the Council in order to be adopted.

City Council meetings can be watched in their entirety [on our website](#).

ICE RESCUE TRAINING VIDEO



Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Duross takes you behind the scenes of the Fire Department's Ice Rescue Training and shares some tips to stay safe on ice in the winter in this video. [Click the image to watch!](#)