

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

**TO: Mayor Walter Ash Jr. and Honorable Members of Belfast City**

### **Council**

**FROM:** Joseph J. Slocum, City Manager

**DATE:** Friday, December 17, 2010

Note: the Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in a work session to discuss economic development updates with Thomas Kittredge, Belfast Economic Development Director. The Regular Council meeting will start immediately thereafter at 7 p.m.

### **Non- Agenda Items:**

Don't forget to renew your dog license before the end of the year. If you fail to renew your dog license within 30 days of January 1 there is a \$25.00 penalty under state law. You can renew your dog license at the City Clerk's office on the first-floor of City Hall located on High Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### **Agenda items:**

#### **10-B Consideration of a request from the Brooks Preservation Society for approval of their proposed rail operations within Belfast for the 2011 season.**

For 2011 the Brooks Preservation Society hopes to use the parking area at the upper bridge station as the principal place from which their trains will originate. They plan to offer trips up along the river and along the track at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. each day during peak summer tourist season. This will extend from June until September. There may be some additional trains scheduled. They hope, with Council permission to do some improvements to the parking lot, have a port-a-potty, and a small ticket booth that has a train station sign affixed to it. Attached in your packet is an outline of the Brooks Preservation Society's proposal. Representatives of the railroad will be present at the meeting to answer any questions you may have.

#### **10-C Discussion on Boathouse rates and charges with new Boat House Rental Agent Cindy Harnden.**

We have hired Cindy Harnden who has extensive event management experience to handle our future efforts to rent out the Boat House. This is an opportunity to meet Cindy and get a sense of her recommendations on future Boat House rates and charges. She has prepared a package of recommendations for you. She will be at the meeting to introduce herself and to review her recommendations with you. She has been working with City Clerk Denise Beckett to develop these proposals.

**10-D Discussion and consideration of a proposal by First Church to expand parking opportunities on Court Street.**

First Church is looking to expand its handicap accessible parking options for its congregation and visitors. We discussed with them the possibility of creating some angled parking along the rear of their property on Court Street. Some of this parking will fall within the public right-of-way. I am recommending that the City split the cost of developing this parking with the Church to provide additional parking for the general area and to maintain the public's interest in the right-of-way. The cost of paying for half of this is less than \$9,000. If the Council approves this recommendation the money will come from budget line 450-577.

**10-E Acceptance by City Council of \$750 forfeiture funds.**

The City participates in drug enforcement and as such it periodically entitled to a share of some assets acquired through Drug enforcement forfeiture laws. Presently we have an opportunity to accept these funds in the amount of \$750.00. We get these from time to time, but they are rarely significant in amount. We maintain a standing forfeiture account where these monies go to help pay for law enforcement equipment or as seed money in a drug enforcement exercise.

To streamline the Council's agenda's the Council can authorize the City Treasurer to accept on behalf of the City these monies on an ongoing basis. I would suggest that the Council authorize the City Treasurer to accept in the name of the City all drug forfeiture money the City is entitled to receive for the remainder of 2010 and all of 2011. Such a motion could also include the caveat that the Treasurer will notify the Council if any forfeiture that exceeds \$5,000 so that the Council is aware of such a significant sum.

**10-F Presentation from Tod Rosenberg, Belfast Code Enforcement Officer on the impacts of the new Statewide building code effective January 1, 2011.**

This new State law will impose new requirements for building construction, require a significant amount of additional staff time and some increased cost to property owners. Tod will come to the meeting to help the Council and our community start to understand the new requirements.

**10-G Consideration of a request from Jim Richards, Fire and Ambulance Chief, to move \$18,000 from the ambulance capital reserves to help pay for the cost of updating our oldest ambulance.**

The Council formally approved the purchase of a new ambulance. At that time we discussed keeping the older ambulance, rather than trading it in, and updating it so that it would be available as a third unit. The Fire Chief has reviewed the needs of this older ambulance and secured prices for various equipment upgrades. He believes that we can update the old ambulance for less than \$18,000. There is a list of what is needed in your packet for your consideration.

**10-H Discussion on the availability of the new lights as the Muck for Ice Skating**

Every year we have real enthusiast who just can't wait to put their ice skates on. Every year we have a discussion on when we will turn on the lights. We have new lights and new underground wiring. We have not put them on yet because we have not met the standard recommendations (3-4 inches) for safe skating. Winter happens in both warm and cold. There has been some concern that we should get these lights on or make them available to the public when they want them. We put an ad in the paper and thought our approach was reasonable. We will be please to change this approach if that is the will of the Council.

**10-I Consideration of a request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter and an economic development matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(E) and (6)(C).**

That's about it for now except a big thank you to the staff and citizens of Belfast and the greater Belfast area who do so much every day to make this the great community that it is. I am privileged to work with all of you. Happy Holidays and a joyous and safe New Year.